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Dear NESAs Participants,

With the Fall Institute Training quickly approaching, I wanted to reach out to welcome you to the Foundation Course in Writing Workshop and give you some information about our work together.

You'll see that I've uploaded three pdf handouts. One contains some general information and resources about writing workshop structures, practices, and theory; one suggests materials you'll need to implement your writing workshop; and one is a great article about Writing Workshop by Linda Rief. There's no need to read them in advance but do be sure to download them to your laptop or tablet so you can refer to them during our time together.

Additionally, please bring a physical notebook or journal, a writing utensil, and an example of your students' writing. The writing can be in any genre, but given that we'll use it to think about how to decide what to teach in a conference, try to bring a one by a student who puzzles you. And to get a feel for me and my beliefs about what really matters in the teaching of writing, I invite you to read my blog post "My Daughter Reminds Me Why I Write (and Why She Doesn't)," which you can find online here: <https://tomakeaprairie.wordpress.com/2016/10/30/my-daughter-reminds-me-why-i-write-and-why-she-doesnt/>

Finally, should you have any questions—or just want to say hi—beforehand, please feel free to send me an email or leave a comment on the blog. In the meantime, I'll keep planning for what I'm sure will be three amazing days!

All the best,