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TEACHERS OF
ENGLISH

Introduction from the editor

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Introduction from the editor

Author Biography

Introduction from the editor:

Greetings! This is my first issue as editor of the *Virginia English Journal*!

As I sit here writing this note, my desk is piled with stacks of papers, books, notebooks, and other debris specific to teaching and academe. My phone is somewhere in this morass, as are my keys (I hope!) but honestly, I have not looked for either item in the last couple of hours, so I fear I might need to overhaul the entire office when it comes time to head out for the day. I look at this chaotic mess, unusual for so early in my semester, and I am struck by the inescapable metaphor that my office represents the state of my brain. Perhaps your desk (and brain) is better organized than mine at this point in the year, dear reader...I sincerely hope that to be the case. This summer break has been anything but restful for many of us in education. The global pandemic continues with another variant wave of the novel SARS-COV-2 virus, and the pandemic has produced a phenomenon I'm starting to call "COVID Time." This adds at least a few weeks to each step of any endeavor, and I appreciate the patience of the authors, reviewers, and staff of bepress as I traversed a rather steep learning curve this year.

This issue represents the last installment in the series begun by former editor Dr. Jenny Martin in which we asked authors and readers to consider Dr. Bret Jones' MUSIC model of motivation and engagement. In previous issues, authors considered strategies related to the MUSIC Model of Motivation (Jones, 2009, 2018), which are related to research-based principles. Articles in the first four issues centered on eMpowerment, Usefulness, Success and Interest; this issue focuses on Caring. Inside this issue, Monica Manns offers an educational model that promotes community and care of students and educators alike as unique individuals. Michelle Lague challenges us to seize the opportunity implicit in our "disrupted" educational models in order to create new, non-deficit strategies for remediation that emphasize humanity and care. Educators processing the constraints and affordances of teaching AP literature courses in a pandemic era should read Tiffany Lewis' beautifully reflective piece on using culturally responsive pedagogy in her classroom. Multigenre projects are often under-utilized in secondary classrooms; Mary Beth Cancienne, Bria Coleman, Kailyn Gilliam, and Kristina Gooden come together to weave their individual experiences into a layered and intricate portrait of one project. William Smyth provides us an overview of an ambitious pen pal project that introduced middle school students to new languages, ideas, cultures, and created a one-of-a-kind global community. Finally, Renato Econa explores arête within the genre of horror and uses examples of well-known fiction that rely on this rhetorical device to create compelling fictional characters.

In this issue, authors consider the following questions:

- What are some ways you have structured your curriculum (in classrooms or virtual spaces) to demonstrate care for students?
- How do you demonstrate that you are approachable and relatable to students?
- In what ways do you communicate that you respond promptly? What strategies work well for you in striving to give timely feedback?
- What moves do you make to ensure that students feel respected by other students and by you, both face-to-face and online?

- In what ways do you communicate that you genuinely care about how they achieve the learning outcomes for your class?
- When have you seen your students genuinely motivated to participate in your Virginia English Journal, Vol. 70 [2020], Iss. 2, Art. 7 classroom community?
- What specific topics for applying the 5 C's of creative thinking, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship resulted in relating the content to students' individual care and empathy?
- In what ways have you changed your students' perceptions of being cared for by using learning activities?