

## TOPIC CHOICE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS WRITING IN AN INVITATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WRITING PROJECT

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### ABSTRACT

According to Riley and Hawe (2004), "Research interest in the analysis of stories has increased as researchers in many disciplines endeavor to see the world through the eyes of the others" (p. 226). We were interested in examining the topic choice of the San Antonio Writing Project summer institute participants, so we could try and understand the topics the contributors wrote during the San Antonio Writing Project's Invitational Summer Institute professional development program. Our study examined the weekly writing assignment that the members of this learning community wrote and later shared with other participants at the institute. Although teachers could write in any genre, we chose to analyze personal narratives because such writing generated rich themes. In this study, we were also exploring the institute writers' attitudes about writing and sharing. Twenty-three themes emerged after holistic content analysis of the data and four categories (identity, gratitude, reflection, and human experiences) were formed by clustering the twenty-three emergent themes.

**Keywords:** Summer Institute, personal narratives, writing, professional development, & attitude.