

**Tri-State Ideation for the Futures of Rhetoric, Composition, and
Writing Studies**
Miami University Voice of America, Rooms 123 and 128 and on Zoom
October 7, 2026

1:00-1:15 Introductions, Method and Goals for Today's Event, and Next Steps

1:15-2:15 Mapping the Discipline: What Defines the Discipline? What Does it Mean to Be in this Line of Work/Study?

- **Individual Brainstorm:** What words, ideas, values define our discipline and its areas of study?
- **Small Group Discussion:**
 - Share your individual brainstorms
 - Draw one or more maps of the discipline as you understand it after the conversation, drawing on your list of brainstormed terms above. Try to visually illustrate all of its sub-areas, what it does, what it studies, what it teaches, who it serves or includes, etc.
 - Move post its into similar categories as a starting point
 - Can use any of the available materials (markers, stickers, etc) or just grouped sticky notes
- **Gallery walk:** add comments on other maps
- **Large group de-brief:** What did you learn from this activity? Where do we agree and disagree? What do we understand about our field based on this activity?

2:15-2:45 Who Are "We"? What Do We Do? And Where Do We Do It?

Each table has a map with all the Tri-State schools illustrated on it.

- **Small group discussion:**
 - What schools do you know a lot about and which do you know nothing about?
 - In what kinds of institutions is the teaching and studying of writing happening in this Tri-State area?
- **Short individual freewrite:**
 - Given what we have discussed today, consider: When we talk about the field, who is 'we'? Who is doing the labor of teaching and studying writing in our area and what are their titles/roles/positionalities? What kinds of work do the people in this field do? What sorts of needs do they have?

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-3:20 Interlude: The Nature of Professional Organizations (Tyler Branson)

As we look to the future, we have the opportunity to imagine structures and activities that meet the needs of people studying and teaching writing. To do that, we need to understand what professional organizations can (and cannot) do.

3:20-4:20 What Do We Need from Our Professional Orgs/Structures?

- **Small Group Ideation** (on large Post Its)
 - Where have *you* been participating in the various orgs and work of “this field,” however you define it? Why?
 - What do you most need from a professional organization?
 - List of things you believe our professional organizations need to provide and WHY we need those things. Star the things already being provided by some existing organization. Highlight the things not being provided.
- **Gallery Walk** (add comments on other groups)
- **Large Group Debrief:** what do different groups of people need? Are there shared needs across groups?

4:20 Brainstorming: Mad Libs to Pull it all Together

Each person will be given a concluding “Mad Libs” set of questions. Responses will be anonymized, aggregated, and shared with attendees and the WAC repository.

4:45-5:00 Final Thoughts and Next Steps