

AANAPISI COURSE RELEASE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

**Sponsored by U.S. Department of Education, Grant No. P382B110017
Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI)**

No more than three single-spaced pages, in 12 point Times New Roman font.

Title: *(Project title)* Writing Workshops and Support Activities for Teaching Associates
Across the Curriculum

Author/Participants: *(Include all participants and their departments)* Linda C. Mitchell

Date: *(Today's date)* April 15, 2014

Project Abstract: *(Same abstract from your cover page.)*

Teaching Associates have only the support of their departments, which can be inconsistent and sometimes nonexistent. I will offer writing workshops and assessment activities for Teaching Associates across the disciplines. I will observe classes upon a TA's request. I will assist TAs in posting lesson plans, helpful articles, and other relevant material to the AANAPISI website link. I have already contacted the new WAC coordinator, Thomas Moriarty, to see how my project will fit into his goals and objectives.

Project Background/Significance:

Teaching Associates are the primary instructors for hundreds of students each semester, many of them in the target population for the AANAPISI Grant. TAs teach many assignments that require writing. These Teaching Associate workshops will provide another level of instruction and guidance for the teaching of writing. This project aligns with the goals of the AANAPISI Grant.

Goals of the Grant: *(Which of the following goals is your project addressing? Circle all that apply.)*

- a. Assess and reorganize the existing writing support services at SJSU;
- b. Enable more data-based decision-making about student retention and graduation at SJSU;
- c. Develop, implement, and integrate proactive writing strategies; or
- d. Change the SJSU writing culture from a policy-driven approach to an action-oriented approach.

The answer "C" is strongest, although the other choices are part of the picture.

Literature Review: *(What other/similar projects are out there?)*

Supervision of TAs is left up to the individual departments. However, similar skills can be shared and practiced across the curriculum. A good model for this project is a WAC program at The Ohio State University that includes Teaching Associates. The site includes statistics, procedures, and other information that incorporates the work of TAs. I emailed the coordinator of that program for more information. Social learning theory such as Vygotsky, Gardener, and Bandura will inform the pedagogical practices of this project. I also use *Teaching Assistant's Handbook* by Stephen W. Wilhoit (Allyn & Bacon 2003).

Project Description: *(How will you do this project?)*.

- 1) I will call Graduate Studies and find out how many TA Programs we have on campus.
- 2) I will call departments and find out what the training consists of and where there might be a need for additional support.
- 3) I will collect data on the training programs in each department, e.g., a training course required, shadowed teaching by a supervisor, and so forth.
- 4) I will offer eight writing workshops for Teaching Associates throughout the semester.
- 5) I will also offer to do classroom observations for the Coordinators.
- 6) A TA link on the AANAPISI website will offer lesson plans, articles, and other information.

Project Method/Design: *(What techniques will you use in this project?)*

For activities, I will follow the model of the AANAPISI Faculty Workshops.

Project Timeline: *(Outline each segment of your project, estimating how long each portion will take and when it will be completed.)*

Weeks 1-3: Determine the population of TAs on campus, department programs, training criteria. Look at TA programs in other universities. Work in coordination with the new WAC coordinator.

Week 4: Set up writing workshop dates with departments

Weeks 5-15: Teach writing workshops in departments or for general TA groups. Offer strategy meetings. Observe class on a request basis.

Week 16: Write report for AANAPISI. Provide an 200-word abstract for a journal article.

Necessary Expenses: *(What expenses will you need for this project? Include student assistants, copying, supplies, space, etc.)*

Copying

Potential Contribution for Improvement of Student Success:

Support for Teaching Associates reinforces good pedagogical skills in the teaching of writing, which in turn improves the quality of teaching. TAs will learn strategies from planning effective lessons to commenting usefully on student writing. TAs reach several hundred students, and more effective teaching will increase retention and graduation rates.