

Member Spotlight – Seth Czarnecki

Seth impressed us with his presentation at this year's conference: "Plotting a Revolution: Student-Run Writing Centers as Third Spaces for Writing." We were eager to learn more about him.

The Bio: "I've been teaching at Algonquin Regional High School in Northborough, MA for nine years. I teach freshman and junior English as well as a training course for potential writing tutors called Advanced Writing Seminar."

A Favorite Book: "*Othello* is easily my favorite. Not only is the language beautiful, as tends to be the case with Shakespeare, but also the play is about so many different things—race, power, gender roles, revenge, love, betrayal. It also has the most intriguing villain in all of literature, Iago."

An Influence: "The professor who had the greatest impact on me was Haivan Hoang at UMASS-Amherst. I was always struck by how she engaged her students — engaged me — as fellow academics. No longer were we simply undergrads. Instead, Professor Hoang expected us to read and write with the same rigor of curiosity as any professor might. She valued our ideas as she would any colleague and in doing so elevated everyone. This act of generosity, viewing her students as peers, had a profound effect on me. I felt like an academic for the first time, someone with ideas worthy of attention and engagement."



A Go-to Strategy: "Keeping it simple is key for me. At the beginning of class, students revisit what they've read and write about specific moments which were important, surprising, and confusing. This centers the students' attention and provides fodder for student-centered discussion. And all you need is a book, a piece of paper, and a pen."

Something Personal: "I like to run and then eat at new restaurants that put the calories right back on. I also make my own beard care products."