

AAC-RERC Writers Brigade

Sarah Blackstone, David McNaughton,
Pam Kennedy, Johanna Schwartz



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AAC-RERC Writers Brigade



- Program Manager, 7 individuals with CCN,
Project Director, Advisory Board,
RERC partners

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Writers Brigade (2004-2008)



- Johanna Schwartz and Sarah Blackstone, 12
individuals with CCN

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The ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Writers
☐ Brigade

AAC-RERC Writers Brigade

1. Increase active participation of individuals who use AAC in the dissemination activities of the AAC-RERC
2. Develop technical writing skills of individuals who use AAC
3. Build employment skills and networks of individuals who use AAC
4. Increase public awareness and knowledge of AAC-RERC activities

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1. Increase active participation of individuals who use AAC

Writers Brigade is managed by, and comprised of, individuals who rely on AAC.

Members of the Writers Brigade are paid to write articles about the AAC-RERC for both electronic and non-electronic media.



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Current WB Participants



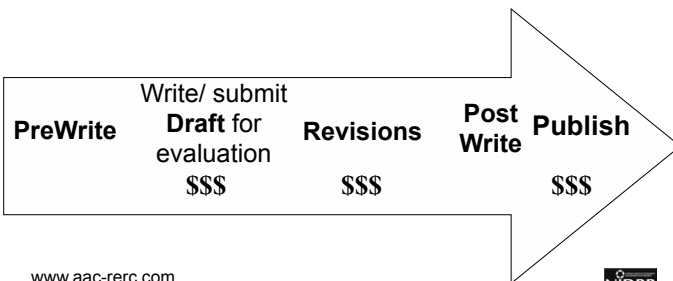
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The ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Writers
Brigade

AAC-RERC Writers Brigade

- Manager: Pamela Kennedy
- Participants: 6 active participants



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2. Develop Technical Writing Skills of Individuals who use AAC

Writers Brigade participants have had a variety of educational experiences

Manager (Pam Kennedy) provides scaffolded instruction to build the technical writing skills of participants



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Pam Kennedy



- Program Manager and Editor
- Uses a variety of AAC technologies
 - Co:Writer, Vmax with Series 5
- Co-Vice President of USSAAC
- Meets regularly (via internet) with participants
 - Teaches writing skills
 - Builds employment skills

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Scaffolded Support for Technical Writing

- Identify a topic
- Gather information
- Write with an audience in mind
 - Multiple drafts
 - Multiple edits
- Maintain a positive attitude

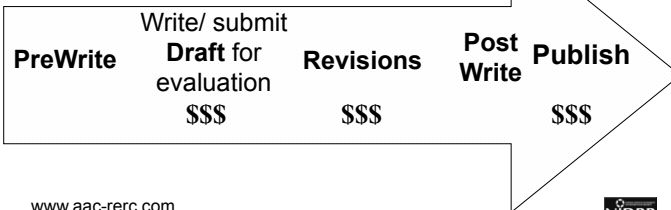


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The
Writers
Brigade

AAC-RERC Writers Brigade



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Google Docs & Google Chat

Google docs DL Cle... Saved 6/23/10 12:31 AM by Pam Kennedy

Comment: Dennis, you've written a very good first draft. You have really solid topic sentences. You don't wander off topic in the middle of your paragraph. You're polishing the piece a little more because it will be used as a cover letter when I send publishers your articles for possible publication. I've crossed out the portions of this draft that won't work for this assignment and given you some ideas to replace them. Please read my comments very carefully. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please send me an email. -Pam Kennedy 8/26/09 6:46 PM

Note: Approach this assignment like a job interview. This assignment serves a similar purpose. You probably wouldn't start an interview by telling your prospective employer about your disability. You'd want the job based on what qualities and skills you'd bring the company. So, you'd start with that instead. -Pam Kennedy 9/3/09 8:42 PM

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Current participant: Leigh



■ *Being a part of the WB has given me the opportunity to achieve my dreams and gain a stronger voice in the augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) industry*

Article accepted for publication in ConnSENSE on the Patient-Provider Communication website

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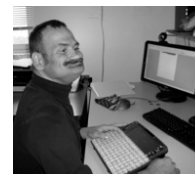
www.Patientprovidercommunication.org

AAC-RERC.COM

www.aac-rerc.com



Current participant: Dennis



■ *I am committed to advocating for people with disabilities and sharpening my writing skills... I hope to assist manufacturers in developing user-friendly guides. This would allow others with speech disabilities to discover the power of writing and speaking themselves.*

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4) Adding a video to your SDC paper

Summary: To add a video to your SDC paper, first upload your video to YouTube and add captions. Then, at the RESNA SDC site, use the YouTube function (available on the visual editor toolbar) to insert a link to the video into your paper. Detailed instructions are provided below – adding a video is optional, however all videos must be captioned.

1. Upload your video to YouTube

YouTube will be used to host all of the videos at the RESNA SDC site. Instructions for uploading videos to YouTube can be found [here](#). You will need a YouTube account if you do not already have one.

2. Add captions

After you have uploaded your video, you must add closed captions.

2a) Type a transcript of your text and save it as a txt file.

2b) Click on your YouTube sign-in name and select *My Videos* (figure 1)

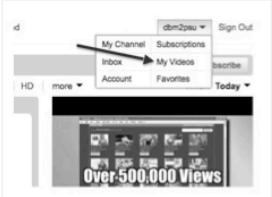


Figure 1: Click on name.

RESNA

CATEGORIES

- 2010 Design Competition Finalist (3)
- Computer Applications & Communication (4)
- Job & Environmental Accommodation (5)
- Other (4)
- Tech for Cognitive & Sensory Impairments (2)
- Wheelchair Seating Technologies (5)
- Wheelchair Mobility Technologies (3)

RECENT POSTS

- "1.8 Me Up" Device
- Wheelchair Accessible Motion Simulator
- Uniform Throwing Chair for Seated Throwing Sporting Events
- USB Interface Technology for Individuals with Limited Upper Limb Mobility
- Advanced Powered Wheelchair Systems
- Adaptive Seating for Single Rider Golf Carts
- Design of an Automatic Switch-Activated Paper-Courtesy Device
- The Woburn System: A Stabilization System for Ataxic Hands
- Handwriting Analysis Software

SEARCH

Search...

AAC-RERC
SPREADING THE WORD

www

Writers Brigade (2004-2008)



- Johanna Schwartz and Sarah Blackstone,
- 12 individuals with CCN

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Alumni: Lateef McLeod

Life post AAC-RERC Writers Brigade

- Free-lance writer for AT network
- Consultant for Dynavox technologies
- Spoke at Bridge School's AAC by the Bay conference
- Published second edition



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A Declaration of a Body of Love Lateef McLeod

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3. Build Employment Skills & Networks (Writers Brigade '04-08)

- Employment Skills
 - Improved writing skills
 - Improved confidence
- Employment Networks
 - Employed Full Time = 1
 - Employed Part Time = 5
 - Unemployed = 6 (5 not looking)

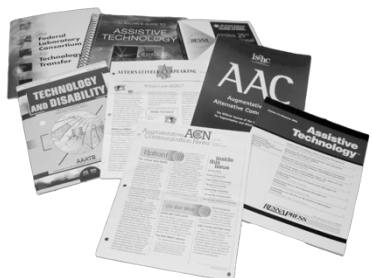


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4. Increase public awareness and knowledge of AAC-RERC

- Publications in
 - Magazines
 - Newspapers
 - Journals
 - Newsletters



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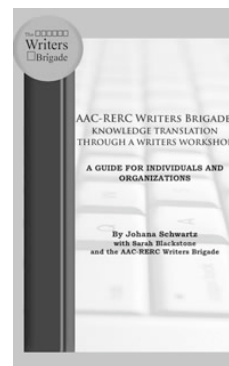
Over 130 publications to date



Internet Publications



Writers Brigade Manual



- Step-by-step guide to setting up a Writers Brigade

Free download at
http://shop.augcominc.com/userfiles/file/wbguidebookfinal_pdf.pdf

Some available here

www.aac-lerc.com



Augmentative Communication News and Alternatively Speaking are now free

- <http://www.augcominc.com/newsletters/>



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To find out more ...

<http://aac-lerc.com>
<http://aac-lerc.psu.edu/index.php/projects/show/id/16>

Email Pam Kennedy at
pamkennedywb@gmail.com



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■ Please visit our website at AAC-RERC.COM for more information



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