

## Where We Are

“Where We Are” highlights where we are as a field on matters current and compelling. The call for this issue’s installment read as follows:

We are seeking contributions for our Spring 47.1 (2019) issue that comment on mundane aspects of professional life in the **six-word format** made famous by Ernest Hemingway: “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.” Our belief is that ordinary, mundane experiences of everyday life in the academy, and in writing studies more specifically, can reveal organizational rules, values, norms, and expected and coerced forms of participation, and much more. We also think that your collective sentences will be fun to read. No content guidelines; we’re eager to see what you come up with!

The entries are loosely organized around topic and rhythmic patterns. Authors are named in bulk at the end of the section in order to emphasize collective experiences across the field. —Editor’s Note

### Where We Are: My Mundane Professional Life

Wake, teach, grade, research, write, repeat.  
Door cracked, please—expecting students later.  
Lunch is my only alone time.

RE: CFP: Your Mundane Professional Life.  
So mundane, there are no words.

Email avalanche: committees, conferences, compositions, complaints.  
I think I am forgetting something.

Will this count as a publication?  
I wrote a book nobody read.  
Reviewer B called it “utter nonsense.”  
Reviewer two wanted five words.  
Reviewer two: “Write a different article.”  
Refreshes email anxiously awaiting publisher’s response.

Cold coffee after an administrative rant.  
Do more with less; rinse; repeat.

I thought all plans were strategic.  
Aren't there men on this committee?

Let me repeat your question back.

Sorry—didn't you get my email?  
Sorry for the delay in responding.  
Feel free to resend your email.  
I'd love to resend that email.  
I dwell in the email inbox.  
Email auto-reply: "Sorry for the delay."  
I apologize for the delayed response.  
Why wasn't this meeting an email?  
Maybe we should schedule another meeting.  
General education revision committee meeting today.  
Very best subject line: Meeting cancelled.  
Hummus doesn't make meetings more enjoyable.  
Unfortunately, we need this done today.

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Warning: Will grade at kids' activities.  
I haven't finished grading it yet.  
I grade better when baby sleeps.  
I hope your grandma feels better.  
B+ is a very good grade.  
I grade papers, dog in lap.  
Paper purgatory: always grading, never completing.  
Grading, grading, conferencing, teaching, emails, meetings.  
Reminder: Please submit midterm grade alerts.

The assignment should specify <insert criterion>.  
Can you require [outcome] in 102?  
That's an outcome, not an objective.

Adjunct life: four classes, three campuses.  
Week twelve dream: on *Survivor* again.  
Four sections, same class, Groundhog Day.  
Do you have a few minutes?  
The Kleenex box isn't for me.

Term ending: Grandmothers, pets, computers dying.  
Fire alarm, nine students absent, Wednesday.

Sorry, I don't teach on Fridays.

Please submit as one contiguous PDF.  
Today's request for recommendation due tomorrow.  
Send paragraph explaining a writing center.  
The fall schedule is due *when!*?

Volunteers needed for mandatory committee work.  
Volunteers for the ad hoc committee?  
Position opening: English composition, started Monday.  
Dear search committee, please hire me?  
Self-care doesn't fix systemic contingent strife.  
Doctorate degree = over educated, under employed.  
Contingent faculty member = limited horizons.  
I wonder if Starbucks is hiring.

FROM Dean: RE: Raising Course Caps.  
New administrative positions cut tenure lines.  
New budgetary constraints will require creativity.  
Your "strategic vision" undercuts our mission.  
Another executive order: Fewer international students.  
Student food pantry needs peanut butter.  
After resource request, a sinking feeling.

Forty one-on-one conferences; antibacterial hand gel.

Just to piggyback on that comment . . .  
Brought to you by Google Suite.  
Writing ebbs and flows in class.  
Citing scholars of color amplifies voices.  
Let's write an article about this.  
Writing on site thirty minutes daily.

Will make to-do list tomorrow.  
Actually, we don't do that either.  
Lesson planning while walking to class.  
Can you quick read this over?  
I don't have time to read.

Update: Humanities building elevator broken again.  
The LMS is down for maintenance.  
Office in concrete fortress; dropped call.  
Locked out of my office again.  
Forgot my dry erase marker, again.  
Top research university, total crap wifi.

I tried to find the poetry in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Wanted: Big-shouldered broad for dirty work.  
Graduate student life: food or heat.  
Counseling services: No appointments available, again.

A booger on the marker board?  
When will the grim reaper come?

Award-winning curriculum stifles dissent; goodbye.  
Decision fatigue + cognitive overload = WPA life.  
Replace multiple emails with phone calls.

To decrease popularity, just say assessment.

Brown face wanted; voice not required.  
POC pain for white “ah-ha!” moments.  
Sitting in my office just B R E A T H I N G.

Never ask about rubrics on WPA-L.  
Mansplaining isn't really mansplaining, he mansplained.  
If he mentions Burke again, I . . .  
Out of coffee; he's still talking.

Making the case again and again.  
Apparently, another justification is needed now.

Motto: There are no “composition emergencies.”  
Classroom: refuge; grading: requisite; service: torture.  
Strangers sheepishly confess intense grammar fears.

Standing desk, arthritis in hand, neck.  
Women's bathrooms are the floor below.

Picked up bus pass; missed bus.  
Today I ate breakfast and lunch.

With Woolf, keep crossing the lawn.

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