

Virginia English Journal Call to Submissions

Vol. 74, Issue 1: Resilience RestorED: Restoring our passion, strengthening our resilience, and reimagining the future of English education

“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.” Christopher Reeve

I fully intended to publish the Summer '25 Issue of the *VEJ* by mid-August, but I failed. I fully intended to publish the Call for Submissions for the Winter '26 Issue of the *VEJ* in the spring, but I failed. I fully intended to have my classroom fully decorated, buy new lamps and comfortable furniture for the reading nook, fully organize my filing cabinets, and have fully written out all of my lesson plans by the end of the teacher work days at the start of the school year, but I failed. I sense a theme here, and I'm guessing that I'm not alone.

This year, maybe more than most, feels busier and more frenetic than normal. I'm accomplishing some of those goals: the *VEJ* and the new call will get published, just a bit later; my classroom is decorated, but it's not perfect; I'm planned about a week ahead; my filing is at least in neat piles, and, most importantly, I've been building excellent student connections.

People who do not work in education are amazed at what we do. They often say things like, “I don't know how you do it,” or “I could never do what you do,” or “Wow! That's a hard job.” And you know what? They're right! So why do we continue? It's simple - we love our students, and we love our job. But, most of us are tired, both physically and existentially.

The theme for the October VATE conference is Resilience RestorED. The focus of the conference is working together to restore passion, strengthen resilience, and reimagine the future of English education. We are stronger together. When we build off of our collective knowledge and ideas, we feel less alone and more capable of tackling the hard days and difficult challenges of education.

Teaching can be a lonely and exhausting profession. Despite the often low pay, lack of resources, and lack of administrative and community support, most of us keep going into the classroom and giving all we have to our students every day. However, if we're going to avoid burnout, we will need to draw on our collective resources. So, for this issue, I want to hear what you do to stay passionate about your profession, build resilience (both in yourself and your students), and how you reimagine the future of English education. What do you do to take care of yourself? What resources and supports do you use to stay engaged and to ignite your creativity? What are your sources of inspiration? What makes you excited to be in the classroom? Tell us what's keeping you

in the classroom, and how you're continuing to return to work each day, loving what you do.

This issue of the *Virginia English Journal* will contain three types of articles, described below:

- Feature articles: These are longer articles of 3,000 to 5,000 words (including references, tables, and figures) that blend research and practice, providing educators with theoretical understandings as well as practitioner-friendly ideas.
- Great teaching ideas: shorter articles of 1,000 to 2,000 words (including references, tables, and figures) that focus on effective and innovative teaching practices that other educators can quickly put into action in their classes.
- Budding scholars: English and English education majors interested in sharing their ideas with an audience of fellow educators are encouraged to submit. Articles of 2,000 to 4,000 words (including references, tables, and figures) should blend research-based insights with practical suggestions for application and share unique perspectives on English instruction.
- We also invite writers to bring variety to our journal by contributing book reviews and poetry that will appeal to our readership.
- Book Reviews: We invite you to submit a book review, 1,200 to 1,400 words, showcasing how it impacted you as an educator.
- Poetry: The VEJ wants to celebrate our poets. If you use poetry in your classroom, then please include what has worked for you along with your poems.
- **Submission deadline:** January 28, 2026.

Please visit the *Virginia English Journal* website to submit articles.

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