

Lucy Filppu

650-906-3402

Research and Language Arts Educator

Educator with over 30 years of teaching, writing, journalism and public speaking experience.

- *Pedagogical Skills, Publishing* -

- AP Seminar Certified by College Board
 - Designed UC Approved first ever Literature of Comedy Course for PAUSD
 - Emotional Intelligence Training, The Greater Good, UC Berkeley
 - Stanford University International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE)
 - Human Rights Educator, Robert Kennedy Human Rights Foundation
 - Published education articles for Bright Magazine, California Teachers Association, Time Inc., Education.com and others
 - Founder, Palo Alto Writing Academy
 - www.paloaltowritingacademy.com
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto Unified School District, Palo Alto, CA
Teacher of AP Seminar, English, Teacher Advisor (August 2008 – Present)

Nominated as Secondary Teacher Leader of the Year, 2019, by Palo Alto Educator Association. I have taught more classes than any person in the English department, launched three courses that are now mainstay course offerings (The Literature of Comedy, Communication and Leadership, AP Seminar) and have led multiple Professional Learning Communities related to access and equity.

Select Contributions:

- ◇ Teacher leader of our College Advisory Program. Successfully developed and collaborated with colleagues to deliver robust curriculum for multiple units and grade levels, including a 10th grade Holocaust unit now taught district-wide, several summative project-based units related to the American Dream and a Saturday Night Live parody held twice a year by our Comedy students.
- ◇ Recruited large cohort of historically underrepresented students to enroll in an AP Seminar, resulting in each student passing the course and all five attending four year colleges on scholarship.
- ◇ Created and run annual “Poem-in-Your-Pocket” and “Page-to-Stage” events for all staff, students and the community in partnership with the Palo Alto Youth Theater and Writer’s Craft, produced by Writer’s Craft, the creative writing class I teach.
- ◇ Co-Produce with our Director of Student Activities the annual graduation ceremony as lead coach for class speakers
- ◇ Serve on the Scholarship and Award committee for the past six years, a close team of staff leaders who set the tone and vision for the values we seek to honor in our students
- ◇ Envisioned new early morning breakfast and learning community for lower SES students, resulting in a vital program to support at risk students.
- ◇ Started “Power Moves” - a before school walking club aimed at lower SES students at risk for falling out of regular exercise.

WRITING AND EDUCATION CREDENTIALS

Teacher Certification, San Jose State University. Aug. 2007 – May 2009.

Social Justice Education, Columbia Teachers College Sept. 1994 – May, 1996.

Master of Arts, Creative Writing, New York University. 1987-1989

Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies, University of California, Los Angeles. 1981-1985

Publishing (a partial list)

Bright Magazine, “Want Boys to Be Themselves? Try Laughter” March 23, 2017

<https://brighthemag.com/how-do-you-get-teenage-boys-interested-in-aristophanes-b973d9240cc2>

Bright Magazine, “An Open Letter About Letters of Recommendation” Jan 11, 2017

<https://brighthemag.com/kids-with-a-3-1-gpa-its-an-honor-to-write-a-college-recommendation-letter-for-you-16dd0ae05a48>

California Teachers of English Essay Contest, 3rd Place. 2012

Selected articles in Education.com, Palo Alto Weekly, Stanford Magazine, International Reading Association, New York Times, Time for Kids Magazine and others.