

Recent essays in popular publications such as *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *Psychology Today* have sounded the alarm that college students today cannot read. Is this true? The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature calls for proposals for an upcoming issue of *Midwestern Miscellany* devoted to the topic of “Reading and Writing the Midwest,” to be edited by Catherine Clifford (Hastings College) and Rachael Price (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College).

Successful essays will describe a specific challenge in the classroom and/or a successful classroom activity or assignment; evaluate a theory of reading, writing, literacy, or pedagogy; or examine a text or historical moment related to literacy in the Midwest. Please send proposals (max. 300 words) and short CV to Catherine Clifford (cat.clifford@hastings.edu) and Rachael Price (rprice@abac.edu) by October 15, 2025. Finished essays (3,000-7,000 words) will be due by February 1, 2025.

Topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Midwestern texts that engage students or promote specific reading skills
- Writing about the Midwest or place
- Responses to think pieces about university students and reading and/or writing
- Debates about early reading instruction (such as the Science of Reading and/or Whole Language reading)
- Theories of literacy, as they apply to midwestern classrooms and/or texts
- Theories of composition, including multimodal composition and accessibility, as they apply to midwestern classrooms and/or texts
- Use of generative AI in higher ed classrooms
- Theories of evaluation, such as anti-racist or equity-minded grading, in higher ed
- Debates about school choice, charter schools, or parents' rights bills in the Midwest

# CFP: Reading and Writing the Midwest

