



Own the Boards is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people of all ages through literature and performance.
www.owntheboards.org

Program: LifeWords Reading Circles
Position: Part-Time Instructor

Own the Boards is seeking a part-time instructor for its LifeWords Reading Circles program. The position is for two classes, for the fall semester, with the potential for additional classes this spring. Instructors will receive a \$1200 stipend per course.

We are looking for someone to teach the following classes:

- Tuesdays from 8am - 10am at the Everett Senior Center in Blount County.
- Thursdays from 11am - 1pm at the Frank R. Strang Senior Center in Farragut.

Program Description:

LifeWords Reading Circles is a lifelong-learning program for adults 50+ that uses literature, performance, and creative writing to help participants stay sharp and socially active.

The program runs from mid-August to early-December. Groups at each site meet once a week for 1 ½ to 2 hours, with approximately 5-10 students attending each session.

Each meeting has a central theme or topic (like the role of mothers, Shakespearean sonnets, Edgar Allen Poe, or coming home from war). Course readings, which represent a range of genres, are compiled before the start of each semester and bound for purchase.

Students spend class time discussing the texts and, when applicable, relating how aspects of the reading material relate to their lives. Instructors also teach some of the formal and/or historical elements of each piece, but not quite to the extent of traditional lit classes. We do not assign quizzes, tests, or essays.

Students will have the opportunity to compose one creative writing assignment per semester as part of our Origins Poetry Project. We usually pick assignments that are accessible to all students and that ask them to creatively represent past experiences.

At the end of each semester, students can choose to participate in our Recitation Showcase, where they present pieces of literature that are personally meaningful. They may also choose to

present something they've written. Own the Boards staff will be on hand to record these performances and upload them to our online archive, making them shareable and saving them for posterity.

Most, but not all, students have some sort of college background. They're usually readers but might feel initially unsure of their ability to read poetry, for instance. Most are women but some men do attend. Some have hearing or vision loss, or might display signs of mild memory loss. Our goal is to try as best as possible to accommodate students' needs and to welcome all who wish to participate, in whatever capacity they can do so. Ultimately, our students have diverse life stories but share a desire to connect with others and to learn something new.

Instructor Responsibilities:

- Prep for weekly meetings
- Lead class discussions
- Provide periodic creative writing instruction
- Maintain contact with students via email or phone
- Periodically conduct course evaluation activities
- Maintain regular contact with program director regarding course progress
- Help promote the program

Academic Qualifications:

- At least 18 credit hours of graduate course work, with preference given to individuals who have a background in literature.

Desired Experiences and Skills

- Experience leading literature-based discussion
- Experience adapting teaching methods to varying student needs and learning styles
- Willingness to share life experiences and help others feel comfortable doing so
- Experience working with older adults

Application Instructions:

Email the following to Dr. Laura Keigan (lkeigan@owntheboards.org) no later than July 24th:

Cover Letter

Current CV

Three professional references