

About the Beautiful Communities of Illinois
An ABC Book Created for Illinois Students, By Illinois Students
Sponsored by the Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education
(ICARE) of the Illinois Reading Council

IRC/ICARE Project Contact:

Roxanne Farwick Owens, Ph.D.
DePaul University School of Education,
rowens@depaul.edu, 773.325.4329
Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this IRC Literacy Support Grant project is to connect teachers and students from across Illinois through the creation of an alphabet book about their respective communities. Sharing in this literacy activity will have an impact on each individual class by creating an opportunity for students to write about their local community and to read about other communities across the state.

Timeline

Fall 2010: Teachers and students create an original book about their community (according to specifications outlined below)

December 17, 2010: Deadline for submitting book (electronically or hard copy) to Project Director.

Winter: ICARE Board of Directors select manuscripts representative of various regions of Illinois to be included in final book.

Spring: Final book hardbound and distributed to all participating schools and posted on IRC website.

Instructions

- Book must be on 8 ½ x 11 **white** paper. Do not fold paper in half.
- Use letter rather than landscape orientation for the page set-up.
- Book will be bound along the **LONG** edge; leave a 1.5 inch border along the left margin to allow for binding. This is extremely important.
- Do not bind the book yourself. Book will be bound by ICARE. If submitting a hard copy, please clip papers with a binder clip or paper clip. Do not staple or bind.
- Book should be a maximum of 30 pages
 - The first page should be the cover page with book title, the school name, the school address.

- The second page should be the author page. Feel free to include the names of all contributors (teachers, students, parents). Remember that if you want to include a photo of the authors, you must send project director photo release forms.
- A dedication/acknowledgement page is optional (e.g., if someone in your community helped a lot with the book, perhaps you may want to thank him/her).
- Next is the body of the book. There are many ways to structure an alphabet book that go beyond the “A is for Apple” type of book—so don’t feel limited by that format. If possible, look through a variety of alphabet books to see the many ways they can be created. There can be a lot of text or not much text on a page. You may choose to use a computer, or you may choose to use a pen or other utensil. Just make sure that the print is dark enough to be photocopied for the final publication.
- Illustrations: You may want to experiment with a variety of art mediums to see which will work best for your format. Feel free to use drawings, photos, digital images, etc. Please cite sources if images are downloaded. Do not use any material that is copyright protected. If people are included in your photos, you **MUST** send a photo release acknowledging that person has given permission to have his/her photo included in the book.

Questions and Answers

Can we use photos to illustrate the book? Absolutely. If there are people in the photos, be sure to obtain photo releases.

Can we have the children draw pictures? Absolutely. Just be sure that they stay within the 1.5 inch margin along the left margin on the long side of the paper to accommodate the binding. Also make sure they use materials that will reproduce well when photocopied.

Should we include the history of our community, famous people from our community, services offered in our community, how our community got its name, landmarks in our community, ethnic and cultural information about our community? The content of the book is completely up to you. Any of those would be good ideas for inclusion.

Does every page need an illustration? No, each page does not need to be illustrated. Keep in mind that “illustration” can include a nice border or interesting lettering—it doesn’t necessarily mean pictures or drawings only. But some pages can be text only if that works best with your format.

Can we use poetry? A predictable pattern? A graphic novel format? You can use any form of writing that works best for your book.

Is it okay to have different classes work together on this? Yes, this project seems to lend itself to a variety of collaborations (across grade levels, across schools, between parents and children...)

Can a school/school district submit more than one entry? Yes, but please limit the number if possible. (Having each child in a class submit his/her own individual book makes the final decision very difficult for the selection committee. If possible, have children collaborate on one class book, or use this as an opportunity for a cross-grade or even cross-school collaboration.)

Have fun!

Please direct any questions about this project to Roxanne Owens, rowens@depaul.edu 773.325.4329 (voicemail), 773.325.7748 (fax), DePaul School of Education, 2320 N. Kenmore, Chicago IL 60614-3250.

SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

About the Beautiful Communities of Illinois
An ABC Book Created for Illinois Students, By Illinois Students
Sponsored by the Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education
(ICARE) of the Illinois Reading Council

Please complete this form and submit it with the electronic or hard copy of your manuscript by December 17, 2010

TEACHER LEADER

(Please complete one form for EACH participating teacher leader)

NAME _____

Title/Grade Level Taught: _____

School Name _____

School Address: _____

(City)

(Zip Code)

(County)

EMAIL address _____

School phone: _____

Home phone: _____

Submit an Electronic or Hard Copy of your manuscript by December 17, 2010
to:

Roxanne Owens
DePaul School of Education
2320 N. Kenmore
Chicago IL 60614 rowens@depaul.edu

(Title Page)

**About the Beautiful Communities of Illinois
An ABC Book Created for Illinois Students, By Illinois Students**

Include Book Title and Name of Town/City Here

By
(Include School Name and Address)

Sponsored by the
Illinois Council for Affective Reading Education (ICARE)
of the Illinois Reading Council

AUTHOR PAGE

The following individuals participated in the creation of this manuscript: