Michaella Thornton

EDITOR, WRITER, &
ONLINE LEARNING DESIGNER

CONTACT

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St. Louis, Missouri

michaellathornton.com

EDUCATION

U of ARIZONA
MFA, Creative Nonfiction

U of MISSOURI-COLUMBIA
BJ, Journalism (*cum laude*) BA, Anthropology

AWARDS

GOLD MEDAL, HUMANITIES
Midwest Book Awards, essay in the anthology, *Lingering Inland: A Literary Tour of the Midwest,* 2026

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT
St. Louis Regional Arts Commission,
2019; 2022; 2023

EMERSON EXCELLENCE in TEACHING AWARD, 2018

OUTSTANDING NEW FACULTY MEMBER,
TYCA Midwest, 2016

NEH TEACHING FELLOW,
Early American Women's History, 2015

ABOUT ME

I'm an award-winning journalist, writer, and teacher who is dedicated to supporting writers throughout the editorial process. As an alumna of the Missouri School of Journalism and the MFA program at the University of Arizona, I use my writing and editing experiences to assist other writers in creating their best creative work. I've worked in newsrooms, worked on copy for start-up educational companies to Fortune 500 companies, and I have led writing center and instructional design staff.

EXPERIENCE

Washington University in St. Louis, August 2018 – Present
Instructional Specialist, Continuing & Professional Studies (June 2023-present)
Support faculty, including facilitating Online Instructor Training for new online and hybrid instructors, designing just-in-time workshops and instructional materials, and serving on an ad-hoc writing assessment committee. Provide instructional support for evidence-based pedagogies and the use of educational technologies to enhance course delivery and assessment practices. Serve as a liaison between faculty, staff, university, and industry partners to improve student learning outcomes.

Adjunct Instructor, Continuing & Professional Studies (June 2021-Present)
Designed and taught a compressed five-week online humor writing course (Summer 2025) and encouraged students to apply to perform for the 2025 St. Louis Storytelling Festival (one did). Taught analytical writing at a women's prison in Vandalia, Missouri as part of WashU's Prison Education Project (Fall 2024). Taught six one-credit-hour courses to acclimate new students to higher education after time away from school (College Transition Seminar, Summer 2021-Winter 2024).

Instructional Designer, Olin Business School's Center for Digital Education
(August 2019-June 2023)
Collaborated with business faculty to launch 44 online courses. Practiced project and change management strategies to support instructors designing online and hybrid courses for the first time. Worked with cross-functional media and publishing teams to ensure wrap-around support for faculty to meet course-delivery deadlines.

St. Louis Community College, 2014 – 2018
Assistant Professor, Department of English, and Interim Writing Center Director
Taught first-year composition (English 101 and 102), Introduction to Fiction Literature, Fiction and Nonfiction Creative Writing Workshops, and interdisciplinary studies. Organized service learning projects with BJC Hospice and Habitat for Humanity. Won Most Outstanding New Faculty Member from TYCA Midwest (2016) as well as an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award (2018). Laid off with 18 junior instructors.

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EDITOR, WRITER, &
ONLINE LEARNING DESIGNER

EXPERTISE

Academic Integrity

Adult Learners

Writing & Editing

First-Year Composition

Instructional Design

Journalism

SKILLS

Andragogy & Pedagogy
Authentic Assessment
Curriculum Development
Editing
Graphic Design
Grant and Proposal Writing
Photography
Project Management
Research
Social Media
Storytelling
Teaching & Learning
Writing & Research

INTERESTS

Baking
Creative Writing
Gardening
Kayaking
Reading
Traveling

EXPERIENCE continued

Saint Louis University, January 2012 – January 2014
Assistant Director for Instructional Design
Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning
Worked with instructors to create faculty-led communities of practice. Identified, wrote, and submitted grants, including winning a "Bringing Theory to Practice" grant from the AAC&U. Coordinated and supported the Innovative Teaching Fellowship and the Learning Studio each semester. Launched *The Notebook*, a monthly blog series.

Kaplan University, 2009-2012
Writing Center Resource Specialist
Conducted and created student-centered synchronous writing workshops in Adobe Connect, executed a long-term project plan for designing and delivering online writing center resources, provided writing instruction to students in personalized synchronous and asynchronous tutorials, collaborated with other departments to create student satisfaction surveys to determine opportunities for growth, and developed dynamic online learning objects to enrich and enhance student learning. Contributed and edited the e-book, *The Kaplan Guide to Successful Writing* (2011).

St. Louis Community College, 2007-2009
Writing Center Supervisor
Supervised and supported eight professional writing specialists and the academic director. Tutored students in writing, created professional development workshops, conducted student, staff, and faculty outreach, and developed program assessment via an online student survey in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness for the first time in the writing center's history. Created and presented an oral history project capturing student voices and experiences at the South Central Writing Centers Association conference.

Teach For America
Program Director (St. Louis, Missouri, 2006-2007)
Sixth Grade Teacher: Language Arts & Social Studies
(Eastern North Carolina Corps Member, 2000-2002)
Supported the on-going professional development of 40 secondary school teachers who taught in area St. Louis City and County public schools through in-class observation, post-observation teacher conversations, and facilitating professional development opportunities via workshops and programs. Served as an interim teaching placement co-manager and placed over 90 percent of first-year teachers in a 5-week period after inheriting this challenge. Assisted with program assessment.