

*Tribute to my Writing Project family*  
*By Mary Ellen Galloway*

I don't want to be too sentimental, but I just have to say that I really love this group. I never want this summer institute to end. There are so many amazing and unique individuals with so much to offer the world. I feel as though I am in a think-tank for gifted and talented teachers every single day. So here is a small tribute to all of you for the many gifts you have given me this summer.

Lily: You are an amazing teacher with a beautiful smile and gentle spirit. Your students and family are blessed.

Nora: You have a graceful and soothing manner that comes across in your writing. I still remember the letter to your son.

Tracy: You are unflappable, sensitive, and open. You write with such depth.

Roxanne (Dr. Henkin): You are the Jewish patron saint of educators and writers. You have taught me so much about writing and life.

Carla: Your laugh rings out reminding us not to take ourselves so seriously. And man! What a poet! I enjoy our walks through the desert in the morning.

Aurelia: You are a deep thinker and peacemaker with a sense of humor. I have learned a lot from our conversations.

Pete: You have an uncanny ability to put difficult ideas into concise and powerful words. You write with passion and love your family very much.

Sara: You are a great writer. Your pieces never fail to put a smile on my face. You also have a great sense of style, inside and out.

Lennie: Master of rhetoric, and great asker of questions. Your gentle manner causes us to think critically during our discussion times.

Honor: Unassuming genius. You are intelligent, pretty, *and* kind. How is this possible?

Rosie: Puts everyone around her immediately at ease with her kind and conversational style. I love the writing about your family. You are a passionate educator.

Therese: Dry, killer wit that is so spontaneous and natural. You write with such depth and pathos.

Cristina: Gold-hearted cheerleader of both students and teachers. You are self-sacrificing and authentic.

Cathy: Teacher with wonderful creativity. You are both a fantastic conversationalist and a deep listener.

Michelle: Funky dresser with the personality to match and poet's soul. I feel *honored* to know you.

Melissa: You say you are ADD, but I love your energy! You are a gifted writer who has the versatility to be both funny and serious.

Rene: Philosopher who helps his students overcome obstacles. Your belief in your students helps them believe in themselves. I wouldn't want to debate you!

Keep writing!  
Mary Ellen