

April 5, 2010

Dear Directors and Cooperating Teacher:

My name is Amy Solomon-Minarchi and I would like to express my gratitude for your time and interest in my request to student teach in the North Thurston School District during Fall 2010. I am in my second year of the Master's in Teaching Program (MiT) at The Evergreen State College. I am currently student teaching at Spanaway Junior High, Tacoma in a Communication Arts class, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades. I look forward to being a part of your school community during my second classroom experience.

My decision to pursue a career as a professional educator stems from a desire to be an inspiring member of my community. My family recently settled in the Olympia/Lacey area, and I wish to use my expertise to best serve my community. Becoming an English Language Arts teacher will allow me to enter into reciprocal partnerships with students, families and colleagues to share my knowledge and training and receive support and encouragement to grow as a productive member of my community.

My teaching philosophy is rooted in socio-cultural teaching philosophy and represents a balanced approach to collaborative group work and individual learning to meta-cognitively engage students in both active and reflective thinking. I am inspired by the work of Barbara Rogoff and James Paul Gee. Through my Master's Paper research, I found that purposeful narrative practice engages students as readers and writers in the classroom and aids adolescent identity awareness. Building a trusting classroom environment involves both my expertise and organization, as well as my student's identities, stories and awareness of how their own histories fit into their greater lives. I am committed to providing active and reflective learning opportunities to my students so

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that they can build strategies for problem solving and critical thinking that can be used across disciplines.

In my field observations at Timberline High School with Jamie Sullivan and pre-program observations at North Thurston High School with Debby McDonald and Karly Nelson, I have seen North Thurston School District's commitment to supporting their teachers. I greatly wish to be a part of such a cooperative system of teachers who value their own professional growth as much as they value their student's growth.

I am excited to become a part of North Thurston School District's community. I will bring with me a value of collaborative learning that parallels the North Thurston School District's mission. I believe North Thurston School District's dedication to creating a safe environment for all students and building strong learning communities will both prepare me for pursuing a position with the North Thurston School District in the future and help me contribute to the learning community by using the skills I am cultivating in the MiT program. I hope to be an asset to my Mentor Teacher in any way I can—from attending pre-school year meetings, participating in curriculum and team building preparation and offering my knowledge and service with a professional and compassionate attitude.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Solomon-Minarchi



Master in Teaching Program  
Field Experience and Assessment  
The Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W., SEM2 E3131  
Olympia, Washington 98505  
(360) 867-6573

## Fall 2010 Student Teaching Application

### Personal Information

Last Name: Solomon-Minarchi First Name: Amy Initial: L.

Address: 1205 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Home Phone: 360-943-7634 Email: asolomon.minarchi@gmail.com

Undergraduate Degree B.A. School Rutgers University, Douglass College Year 2004  
Major English with Creative Writing Focus

### Previous Placements

#### Field Observations – Year One

MIT students visit three different schools during their first quarter in the program. Each student has the opportunity to observe: an urban, suburban and rural school as well as a high school, middle school and elementary school.

#### Fall Quarter Observations:

School District	School	Grade/Subject
Tacoma	Foss High School	10/Honors English
Olympia	Lincoln Elementary	4/5
Centralia	Centralia Junior High	7/English Language Arts

The final observation / guided participation site remains at the same location for one full day per week during both the winter and spring quarters for year one of the program. The placements are set up specific to the MIT student's endorsement areas and grade band.

#### Winter and Spring Quarter Observation:

School District	School	Grade/Subject
North Thurston	Timberline High School	9/English Language Arts 12/AP English

Fall Student Teaching Placement: (IF APPLICABLE)

School District	School	Grade/Subject
<b>Bethel</b>	<b>Spanaway Junior High</b>	<b>8/Comm Arts</b> <b>9/Advanced Comm Arts</b>

### Related Activities

Please list any previous teaching related activities in which you have been involved, such as tutoring, teaching, coaching, volunteering, camp supervising, etc.

Yoga Teacher- 2003 to present. I have been teaching Yoga to students of all age and ability levels since 2003. I most recently taught Yoga as part of the Physical Education program at the Spruce Street School, an Independent Elementary School in Downtown Seattle, and as a volunteer for a Senior Yoga class at the Briggs YMCA, Tumwater.

Creative Writing Mentor- 2005-2006. During 2005 and 2006, I volunteered one day a week mentoring teens ages 14-15 in poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction as part of the Richard Hugo House's Teen Mentorship Program, Seattle.

Please list any special skills, hobbies, or abilities that might be of interest or assistance in your placement:

I am an active writer and poet and I am always seeking to improve my writing skills through professional development opportunities, including workshops, trade reading and active submissions to literary journals, zines and competitions.

I am a certified Yoga Instructor with seven years of studio and school teaching experience. I practice both posture and breathing exercises which are useful in cultivating calm environments and group focus.

I have worked in libraries since 2001, most recently at the Timberland Regional Library (2008-2009), Olympia Branch, in various circulation positions. I have experience working with a wide variety of literature, library resources and alternative reading materials. I have experience working with diverse patrons including blind and dyslexic and dysgraphic populations at the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, where I had the opportunity to learn Reader's Advisory techniques. I currently volunteer at the Olympia Timberland Library with Librarian Kelsey Smith, cataloging their extensive zine collection.



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The Evergreen State College,  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Lab1, Room 3012  
Olympia, Washington 98505  
(360) 867-6573    pettyl@evergreen.edu – www.evergreen.edu

## STUDENT OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY/CODE OF ETHICS

For Practicum/Observation/Student Teaching

As a Master in Teaching Student at The Evergreen State College, I will maintain complete confidentiality about students, staff, and parents in the school(s) where I am placed for observation practicum and field experiences.

The public entrusts educators with a responsibility that requires exemplary service. As a The Evergreen State College Master in Teaching student, I will adhere to practices that honor the dignity and worth of the students, staff, and faculty in the schools where I am placed. I will conduct myself in a manner consistent with the Code of Professional Conduct for Education Practitioner (Chapter 180-87 WAC).

Amy Leah Solomon-Minarchi  
Print Your Full Name

Signature on file	4/5/2010
Signature	Date

Note: All Master in Teaching Students are covered by a \$1,000,000 Professional Liability Insurance policy.

If you are an individual with a documented disability and need an accommodation during your Practicum, Observation and/or Student Teaching Placement, please contact the MIT Field Placement Officer, Loren Petty. Please make this request as soon as possible to insure the best placement.

## Academic Preparation Page

**Amy Solomon-Minarchi**  
**Residency Teaching Certification**  
**Endorsement: English Language Arts**

<b><u>Master in Teaching 2008-2010 The Evergreen State College(TESC)</u></b>	<b><u>Quarter credits</u></b>
Theories of Learning	4
Educational Research Design	4
Curriculum Design and Assessment	4
Classroom Management and Discipline	4
Field Experience/Practicum Teaching	4
Diversity and Equity in the Classroom	4
Content Area Reading and Writing Methods	4
Historical Foundations of Education	4
Models of Teaching and Lesson Planning	4
Secondary English Language Arts Methods	4
Adolescent Development and Communication	3
Integrated Arts and Music	2
Educational Technology	2
Professional Issues: Child Abuse and School Law	1
Special Education/Differentiation/RTI	3
Issues in Educational Technology	3
Professional Development: Professional Growth Plan and Master's Presentation	3
Education Seminar: Student Engagement and Motivation	3
Independent Project: The Writer's Workshop	4
Student Teaching spring 2010	16*
Student Teaching fall 2010	16*

<b><u>English Language Arts Endorsement</u></b>	<b><u>Quarter Credits</u></b>	<b><u>Institution</u></b>
Praxis II/WEST-E: English Language, Literature & Composition Content Knowledge		passed
Adolescent Literature	4	TESC
AP English Literature	4.5	Rutgers University
Myth and Meanings II	4.5	Ocean County College
Principles of Literature Study I, II	9	RU
Victorian Poetry	4.5	RU
Shakespeare: Jacobean Plays	4.5	RU
Medieval and Early Modern Women Writers	4.5	RU
Seminar: 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Lit and Culture	4.5	RU
American Poets: Voices and Visions	4.5	OCC
The Harlem Renaissance	4.5	RU
The Short Story	4.5	RU
Issues and Problems in Literary Theory	4.5	RU
Writing for Business and Professions	4.5	RU
Creative Writing I	4.5	RU
Creative Writing Poetry	9	RU

\*In progress

Creative Writing Fiction	9	RU
Advance Creative Writing Workshop: Poetry	4.5	RU
Theatre Appreciation	4.5	RU

<b>Relevant Courses/Professional Development</b>	<b>Quarter Credits</b>	<b>Institution</b>
Exploring Teaching as a Profession	4.5	RU
Elementary Latin I	6	RU

\*In progress



Master in Teaching Program  
Education Field Experience and Community Relations

The Evergreen State College  
2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W. , SEM2 E3131  
Olympia, WA 98505

Student Teacher Placement Response  
Fall Quarter 2010 (September 8 – November 19, 2010)

Please check **Yes** or **No** indicating your response to this request,  
and return as soon as possible by fax or send email:

**FAX: 360-867-6575 or E-MAIL: [pettyl@evergreen.edu](mailto:pettyl@evergreen.edu)**

**STUDENT:**

☐ **YES, WE WILL ACCEPT THIS Student Teacher for Fall Quarter 2010.**

The Evergreen State College (TESC) **Fall Quarter Student Teaching 2010** begins **September 8, 2010** and ends **November 19, 2010**. (The official start and end date depend on your district. The Student Teaching Internship is to begin on the first day of school and will last for 10 weeks.) School personnel, working with candidates must have three years experience in the role supervised. Upon acceptance of the candidate by a qualified and willing teacher, the student's initial meeting with the building principal and the cooperating teacher will take place as soon as possible, but prior to the student teaching experience.

Name of School and School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

COOPERATING TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE LEVEL / SUBJECT ASSIGNMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **NO, we cannot accept a student teacher for Fall Quarter 2010.**

Thank you in advance for your consideration and prompt response!