

TTP Proposal for Spring, 2002
Natalia Singer

I received TTP funding last year to launch the trail run of my FYS, **This Life This Place**. I was able to purchase two digital cameras, a scanner, and to fund a student assistant who helped people print digital photography and helped one person design a class web page on Front Page. I am seeking the funding for a student assistant this year who can do hands-on training for my students on web design on a weekly basis (far more than my student last year did, since web work is now going to be required of everyone in my FYS, but only if I can get this help!) I am also seeking (without getting funding for this) professional consultation with Mark Mende and Sondra Smith, some of which we agreed upon as a carry-over from last year, but some of which would be done in addition, late in the fall and in January, as I prepare to teach the class. I have a student assistant in mind, Kandyce McGill, who designed our class web page last year as a student in this FYS. She is very interested in doing this work. You can get a taste for what she did last year by looking at the page she set up last year at it.stlawu.edu/~thisplace. (Her training for this was a two-hour session and the rest she figured out mostly on her own.) She would need training in Dreamweaver, and ongoing support from IT to help my students put up their pages.

The following is a draft of my paragraph description of the FYS seminar:

This life, This Place

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This seminar is for students who love to write. We'll begin reading and writing short memoir pieces that focus first on home and growing up. Then we'll shift our focus to our adopted community of the North Country and try our hand at writing about place as literary journalists. The Canton town historian will take us on a historical walking tour, a naturalist will take us snow-shoeing through nearby Indian Creek Nature Center, and a local farmer and auctioneer will show us both his sugar shack and his museum of local curiosities. In addition, our trip to the Frederick Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg will give us a taste of at least one artist's creative renderings of the North Country. Students will work in teams on these excursions to conduct interviews, do historical research, write "Talk of the Town" pieces (in the literary style of *The New Yorker*), as well as construct web pages that combine digital photography, sound clips, and reportage. For final projects, individual students will write profiles of other North Country haunts they discover on their own, present their work orally, and then use the skills they acquired in the team projects to put these pieces onto our class web page.

Budget request:

- \$600 (approximately for a student assistant to do web mentoring and training)
Given a 15 week semester and this revised schedule:
9.0 hours/week x 4 weeks = 36 hours
6.0 hours/week x 5 weeks = 30 hours
4.0 hours/week x 6 weeks = 24 hours
Total: 90 hours @ \$6.50 = \$585