

Christopher Wenz

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I'm writing to apply for the Test Content Developer Position ELA (2105670). In addition to the five years I spent teaching high school English and History to students with learning differences, I have spent the last 6 years teaching courses in reading and writing instruction for preservice teaching candidates. I believe the skills I have developed as a teacher, teacher educator and researcher align closely with the responsibilities and skills outlined in the description for this job.

Since leaving my position as Research Scientist at Landmark College in June of 2020, I have been teaching as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Connecticut and working to complete my PhD. I have also been providing full-time care for my 5 year-old son and volunteering in support of a much-needed renovation of his non-profit preschool: Willow Blossom Learning Center. In my role as Board President, I have collaborated with the Center Director and staff to upgrade the building's HVAC systems, re-design classrooms, and secure the funding needed for these renovations. I have also volunteered hundreds of hours to complete the carpentry and painting necessary to create a safer and more functional space for the Program. Now that the Program has re-opened, and my son is back in school, I am seeking a position that allows my family to remain in the Pioneer Valley long-term and affords me the opportunity to apply my skills as an educator and researcher.

In August, I will complete my PhD in Curriculum and Instruction; my graduate studies have built on my classroom experience as a Special Educator and I have focused on adolescent literacy instruction, assessment and intervention. Some of my scholarly work has been focused on "disciplinary literacy" (DL): an emerging approach to K-12 literacy instruction that focuses on developing students' literacies by engaging them in the literate practices of disciplinary experts. As a Graduate Assistant and Adjunct Professor at the University of Connecticut, I have applied these ideas to numerous courses on literacy instruction for pre-service teacher candidates (including pre-service ELA teachers) and students in the Literacy Specialist Program.

Although working for a company like Pearson would be a departure from my prior experience in schools, I have thrived working both independently and on teams in numerous settings. Working in schools always requires juggling multiple and competing priorities and approaching every day with flexibility and a willingness to learn; I believe the skills and competencies I've developed in my career as an educator would serve me well in this position and make me an asset to the company and my co-workers.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my qualifications with you in an interview and I thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Christopher Wenz