



stories for change

BrinkLit.org

Teaching Opportunity

Brink Literacy Project – Frames Prison Program

Title: Frames Contract Instructor

Start Date: Flexible, positions start as early as mid-October 2023

Duration: 6 months with potential to continue long-term

Time Commitment: 5-20 hours per week

Rate: \$50/hour contract

Location: Instructor must be a resident of the state of Colorado, with bulk of work occurring on-site in Denver area and/or Colorado Springs

Deadline: Rolling. Review and interview cycles begin September 27, 2023.

ABOUT BRINK

Vision:

Brink Literacy Project believes that in utilizing/harnessing the power of storytelling, we can nurture strong, connected, empathetic communities that have access to equal opportunity and self-actualization.

Mission:

Brink utilizes the power of storytelling to foster a love of literature, increase literacy rates, and empower underserved populations. By combining innovative education programs with community involvement, Brink creates pathways for underrepresented, diverse, and emerging voices.

Our Unique Approach:

Brink believes that, by refocusing the stories we each tell about ourselves, individuals can unlock their own potential and achieve self-actualization, regardless of background. Furthermore, by engaging with the stories of others—especially those most different from our own—our capacity for impact is amplified, increasing critical thinking, empathy, and accountability to make the world a more inclusive and tolerant place.

ABOUT FRAMES PRISON PROGRAM

Started in 2017, Brink runs this innovative educational program in women's prisons in the U.S. and UK. Using comics as a way to court low-literacy and reluctant readers, we help students distill a single turning point in their lives into a short graphic memoir. This process works to tackle personal trauma, increase self-sufficiency, and help students gain the tools they need to get out, and stay out, of prison. Beginning in October 2023, we will be partnering with reintegration organizations to bring this work to formerly incarcerated adults and teenagers as part of a reintegration support system.

THE MISSION FOR THIS POSITION

Frames Instructors will spearhead new systems of implementation for one of our largest educational programs: Frames Prison Program.

Frames instructors will work with our education team to implement our new curricula. In addition to implementing new curriculum onsite with our established community partners, instructors will also work with our Education Program Manager to create education networks and expand our programs into Colorado communities where need has been identified.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

This position is ideal for someone who enjoys building community; believes in the power of storytelling to change lives; can collaborate constructively and humbly with teams of students, educators, editors, and publishers; and is excited about disrupting educational systems to create lasting, individual change. Most candidates for this position will have a combination of storytelling, publishing, administrative, and classroom experience. This is also the ideal position for somebody who has firsthand experiences within justice-touched communities and advocacy spaces.

Preferred Skills:

Brink is not a degree-based employer. We hire based on skills and ethos, not traditional experience. With that said, competitive candidates for this position will possess the following skills:

1. An acumen for creating and editing great stories
2. An ability to communicate these elements in the classroom
3. An extremely high level of organization, communication, and logistical follow-through
4. Strong interpersonal skills for building student trust and community ties.

5. Understanding of the current educational sphere (including the ability to navigate what you've seen work and fail, so we can pivot to improve the systems we work in, instead of adding to the problem).
6. Be a deeply engaged member of the justice-touched communities we serve in Colorado, specifically in the Denver Metro Area or Colorado Springs.

POSITION OVERVIEW

If you are hired into this instructor position, you will spend most of your time split between five primary types of work:

1. *Classroom Instruction*: lead and facilitate classes according to Brink's new Frames curriculum.
2. *Out-of-Class Writing Review*: engage thoroughly with the output of your students to guide them toward their storytelling goals.
3. *Content Revision*: Aid Brink's Education team in improving our curriculum according to instructor and student feedback, as well as community need.
4. *Classroom Data Analysis*: Collaborate on the gathering, organization, and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data points to improve programing and support program growth. (No experience required).
5. *Community and Business Cultivation*: maintain and grow our community of students, teachers, education directors, and nonprofit partners to increase impact.

Your Starting Point

The previous iteration of the Frames Prison program has been tested in a variety of forms, primarily for use among inmates at Denver Women's Prison. Building off that success, we've created a new curriculum, incorporating the latest research in student-centered, equitable pedagogy. This program will require you to jump in as our first on-site instructor of our new program iteration, implementing a new system, critically evaluating and revising the program according to community need, and identifying new ways to reach our target communities in Colorado.

Although much of this role will require strong classroom management skills and ability to work intimately with student narratives, you'll be supported by your supervisor, colleagues, and partners, and will be provided with thorough teaching resources.

Results:

Results this position will be responsible for achieving:

1. You have completed the instruction and facilitation of various Frames courses with our community partners.
2. You critically assessed the efficacy of the new curriculum within the communities we serve.
3. You have guided the expansion of Frames into new community areas where need has been identified.
4. You established ties with educators, communities, and partners with whom Brink can pursue future programming endeavors.

Responsibilities:

A slightly "lower altitude" view of major responsibilities of this role:

1. Create a welcoming and holistic classroom space in which your students can learn and express themselves with honesty, confidence, and compassion.
 - a. Provide those students with rigorous instruction that both meets them where they are at and encourages them to grow and aspire as storytellers.
 - b. Handle nonfiction student work with care, compassion, and respect.
 - c. Maintain organized classroom practices for student progress and record keeping.
2. Work with our Education Program Manager to critically evaluate the efficacy of the new curricula and help our team revise it for future use, according to both instructor and student experiences.
3. Community Program Development
 - a. Select new spaces into which we can expand our work.
 - b. Build ties with communities, educators, and potential partners

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Brink's mission centers around inclusion, empathy, and humility. Thus, both the working environment and the materials we teach are centered around championing and embracing diversity in all its forms including (though not limited to): race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religion, and disability.

We do not expect all our staff to personally identify with the diverse community we serve, but a deep respect for differences and a commitment to approaching difficult topics with humility and respect is essential to our work.

Working with marginalized communities requires an enormous amount of empathy and diverse perspectives. Thus, someone who is not only comfortable but excited to engage with these populations is essential to this role. We have found that our work is more effective when our educators come from the communities which we serve.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your résumé, contact details for two references, and written responses to the following questions:

- What is most compelling to you about Brink's approach? (250 words max)
- Why do you believe you'd be successful in this role? (400 words max)
- What is your superpower? You may be good at many things, but what are you truly great at? (400 words max)
- What soft skill do you believe is most valuable in a writing class? Why? (200 words max)

Please submit your application on our [Submittable](#).

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Position starts as early as October 2023, with some room for flexibility.