

The Teacher Who Changed How We Teach Writing

Mike Rose popularized a new model of writing instruction that saw students as struggling to do a very difficult thing.

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In late summer, the educator and writer [Mike Rose died](#) of a spontaneous cerebral hemorrhage at his home in Santa Monica; he was seventy-seven. I learned of his death in the pitiless way that one often does in 2021: from a friend's Facebook post. The news came as a great shock. Sure, Mike had a few years on me, but he had always seemed in terrific health. Tributes from his students, colleagues, and those who loved his writing soon appeared across the Internet. His breakthrough book "[Lives on the Boundary](#)," from 1989, has exercised a powerful and benevolent influence on America's classrooms. A friend described his impact this way: "Anyone who remembers a writing teacher who cared about them benefits from Mike's work."