“Schools need to set a clear goal to improve writing instruction so that all teachers and all students are engaged,” said Brisk, who details her Genres in Writing approach in her book Educating Students in Academic Literacies (2015, Routledge). "To support that, genre-based writing instruction provides teachers with very specific content they need to reach students with different degrees of English proficiency."

The most recent U.S. Department of Education data show the nation's public schools enroll nearly 4.4 million English learners, or nine percent of total enrollment. In urban schools, ELL students constitute 14.2 percent of enrollment.

Developed with classroom teachers, Genres in Writing breaks from the traditional use of the personal essay and teaches children how to approach, prepare and execute writing across multiple genres, such as the persuasive, expository and historical.

More information: The AERA 2015 session "International Perspectives on Teacher Preparation for Second Language Learners" takes place Monday, April 20, 10:35 AM at the Chicago Marriott, Sixth Level, Great America Room.