

PEER ASSESSMENT OF WRITING

- Speaker: John Bean, *Montana State University*
Mark Waldo, *Montana State University*
- Introducer/Recorder: Dale Oscarson, *Palo Alto Unified School District*

John Bean and Mark Waldo described the writing program at Montana State University. Through the use of peer tutoring, peer discussion, and peer evaluation, a collaborative approach to process writing instruction allows Montana State University to reach all freshmen and all students involved in writing across the curriculum programs in a university of eleven thousand students. In the writing center, thirty well-trained undergraduates from various majors comprise the peer tutoring group whose chief method is inquiry rather than explanation. Peer discussion led by an instructor acting as coach takes place in the classroom after a writer's first draft has been submitted. All sixty students have copies of the composition which has been read twice holistically by a highly trained group of graduate students using a six point scale. According to the degree of student progress noted, the collaborative approach used at Montana State University appears to be successful and economically feasible.