Teaching in non-traditional settings:
Tips for MFA Grad Writing students

It is important to be very creative and proactive in finding teaching opportunities, especially early on in your career. To gain experience and build your resume, consider working in non-traditional teaching environments such as the following:

1. **Literary nonprofits**: Literary organizations frequently have education programs for which they are in need of “writers in residence” or “teaching artists.” *Ex. Pen America Los Angeles ‘Pen in the Community’ program*

2. **High school programs**: Many public and private high schools have part-time (and occasionally full-time) positions for creative writing instructors.

3. **Online teaching**: It probably goes without saying that the market for online teaching is growing. Don’t limit yourself to strictly face-to-face teaching opportunities. There are lots of organizations that are in need of faculty to teach online writing workshops.

4. **Summer workshops**: Though many traditional schools are on break during the summer, this is a time when there tend to be many non-traditional teaching openings. Both short term and long term summer camps take place at college and university campuses, and many of the camps offer writing seminars and workshops. *Ex. Upward Bound*

5. **Volunteering**: Though it may sound like a waste of time, if you are having trouble finding a paid teaching opportunity, taking a position as a volunteer writing instructor can be a great way to network and gain experience. Some literary nonprofits offer writing workshops and are looking for volunteers to help out. *Ex. 826LA*

Here are a couple of readings you may be interested in:


http://jwillis.net/about/teaching/