

Title of Session: WriteTalk - Sharing Best Practices in Writing

Moderator: Sandra Bullock

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Room: WriteTalk Group

BJB2: Welcome to tonight's WriteTalk led by Sandra Shattuck...

BJB2: to help you follow the dialogue more easily, go to the Actions menu in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2: We usually start all discussions in Tapped In with introductions. Can you please let us know where you are located and what brings you to this discussion?

SandraS: I'm in Alabama

SandraS: teach English & literature

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania. Sandy has helped me a lot with my own personal writing. I'm always excited to hear her ideas.

SandraS bows to BJ and her wonderful creativity

DebraD: I am Debra D from Lake Charles, La. I teach second grade and participating in this chat as an EDTC requirement.

PaulineN: I am in Milwaukee and I would like to learn how to teach writing effectively to the kids I work with. I teach K3 to K5 special needs.

SandraS: Jeff, Emily?

JeffC: I'm on Helpdesk here and always looking to learn new stuff.

SandraS bows to Jeff

SandraS: Usually I start with a quick spiel about the National

SandraS: Writing Project

SandraS: and then we'll talk about writing

SandraS: the National Writing Project or NWP

SandraS: was founded in 1973 at UC Berkeley

SandraS: as a professional development organization

SandraS: the founder, Jim Gray, just died at the beginning of this month

SandraS: you can read more about him at the website

SandraS: <http://www.writingproject.org>

SandraS: There are three basic tenets

SandraS: 1) teachers are the best teachers of other teachers

SandraS: 2) teachers teach writing better when they improve their own writing

SandraS: 3) writing is a great method for learning across all subject areas

SandraS: The NWP is a federally & state funded program

SandraS: and has about 195 sites nationally

SandraS: all housed at universities

SandraS: serving primarily k-12 teachers

SandraS: each site has a summer institute

SandraS: and if you're interested in attending, just check out the map on the website and see if there's a site near you

SandraS: sites usually offer stipends of graduate credit or CEUs depending on the site

SandraS: any questions so far?

PaulineN: Am doing fine

SandraS: Debra?

SandraS: I'm going to assume Debra's doing ok....

DebraD: No, I am anxious to get some of your great ideas for teaching writing.

SandraS: oh, great

SandraS: Well, let's start with how you use writing in the classroom.

SandraS: Perhaps if we could start with sharing a teaching writing experience....can be good, or challenging.

DebraD: I love to introduce the idea of writing reports to my second graders. They feel so big.

SandraS: Oh, that's cool.

SandraS: Pauline, you're k3-5..what kind of writing do you do?

PaulineN: Right now most of the kids in my room are learning to form letters and other just lines and circles.

PaulineN: Those who know how to form letters are learning basic words.

PaulineN: I also use drawing as a form of writing

SandraS: ok, wonderful...why don't we talk about ways to incorporate other arts

SusanR: any of them try inventive writing, Pauline

PaulineN: and have the kids dictate what their drawing is about

SandraS: We're on the same wavelength!

BJB2: Debra, take a look at <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/perspectives/2005/bm.jsp> when you get a chance....it's a perspective by a Tapped In member on how she uses Tapped In with her second grade class

SandraS: I was just about to suggest that, Pauline

SandraS: Thanks, BJ.

DebraD: thanks, I will

PaulineN: I encourage those who can form letters to use whatever letters they know to write what they are trying to tell me

SandraS: Pauline, can you tell us how you use drawing?

PaulineN: I usually tell them to draw something they did when they went home or what they liked best about their day

PaulineN: or what they would like for me to know

SandraS: then do they narrate the drawing? tell a story?

PaulineN: no, they either draw mama or a pet or something we have been reading about

SusanR: do you do a lot of transcribing?

PaulineN: I have tried to do a short story but they have not got the concept

SandraS: great question, Susan

SandraS: I was having this vision

PaulineN: some of them do those who are forming letters

SandraS: of kids telling their stories into a microphone...using Audacity on the computer

SandraS: then transcribing it...then they could have the picture, their words in sound, and then you could print it out too

PaulineN: is it adaptive tech

SandraS: Audacity of freeware for podcasting....or just recording on the computer

SandraS: you just need a microphone

SandraS: I don't think it's adaptive...

PaulineN: ok, where do I get the software

SandraS: what kinds of special needs do you deal with?

PaulineN: mild, mainly speech, SDD and OHI and some autism

BJB2 hopes Pauline will join the Special Ed discussion on November 21. The topic will be adaptive tech

PaulineN: Thanks for letting me know about the date. I belong to one of the special ed cadres

SandraS: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>

PaulineN: Thanks for that site too. I will check it out.

SandraS: one of the teacher consultants in our last summer institute

SandraS: used drawing in her 10th grade lit. class

SandraS: they read a Poe story and then draw the house that it described

SandraS: it supports all kinds of reading and writing skills, as well as critical thinking

SandraS: Lately, in my own journaling, I've been letting myself draw

SandraS: It affects my writing

SandraS: Loosens me up

SandraS: or gives me perspective

PaulineN: It was very [nice] talking here but I need to eat. Have a good evening.

SandraS: Thanks for participating, Pauline.

BJB2 waves goodnight to Pauline. Thanks for joining the discussion.

PaulineN: bye

SandraS: Have a good evening.

SandraS: Debra, can you talk a bit about the reports you assign to your second graders/

PaulineN left the room (signed off).

DebraD: we begin with a current science topic and then build word walls to generate ideas

SandraS: oh, very cool

SandraS: how do the students react to the word walls?

DebraD: I have them think of as many words that come to mind on a certain topic as I list them on the board.

DebraD: It helps them to spell difficult words and well as recall info

SandraS: excellent

SusanR . o O (brainstorming the topic)

SandraS nods to Susan

SandraS: powerful step of writing process

SandraS: I watched a second grade teacher talk about writing class books...

SandraS: a wonderful way of collecting that knowledge and keeping it on the shelves

SandraS: so you could build a class book out of whatever science topic you work on

SandraS: Debra, do you incorporate drawing at all with your writing?

DebraD: yes I have collected them as books and my classes from year to year read them again and again

SandraS: oh, that's wonderful!

SandraS: authentic publishing!

NancyGst2 joined the room.

SusanR: and the kids read them over and over again in my grade one class

NancyGst2: hello everyone

SandraS: fantastic, Susan.

BJB2: Hi, Nancy. Welcome

SandraS: Hi, Nancy.

DebraD: Yes they always illustrate. I also sometime read a book aloud and do not show the pictures and ask them to illustrate what they've heard. very interesting results

SandraS: that's a great idea, Debra

NancyGst2: what age group, Debra, if you don't mind?

DebraD: second 7-8

BJB2: This is the WriteTalk discussion, Nancy. We're discussing how to use writing in the early elementary grades

SandraS: Nancy, would you like to introduce yourself? Tell us where you are and what you teach?

NancyGst2: oh. yes. imaginative minds. okay I'm in the later elementary years, but I can still chat....I teach in Connecticut.

SandraS: Welcome!

NancyGst2: 5th grade that is at a very culturally diverse school, its great.

SandraS: Where in CT?

NancyGst2: Thanks. In the northern half of the state, are you from around here?

SandraS: yes...southern part

SandraS: I'm in Alabama right now but grew up in CT

NancyGst2: oh cool. okay so that's odd. but neat. we are not that far apart

SandraS: Nancy, we've been talking about using drawing with writing

SandraS: I talked a little bit about the National Writing Project

SandraS: which you can check out at

SandraS: <http://www.writingproject.org>

SandraS: and we're looking at how we use drawing and writing together

SandraS: I'm a college prof. so I have used NO drawing and am finally learning that it can be a powerful tool...particularly with writing

NancyGst2: oh okay. thanks for filling me in. I'm looking at bit at this site, I have never seen it before.

SandraS: thanks for stopping by, Nancy

BJB2: Nancy, Tapped In is a community of practice for educators...

BJB2: the international membership is over 18,000

BJB2: members receive a transcript of their chats when they log out

BJB2: membership is free!

SandraS applauds Tapped In!

NancyGst2: oh really. I heard about this site from others, so I thought I would check it out too.

NancyGst2: does the transcript go through email?

BJB2: members can also bring k-12 students to the student campus, have a private office, join special interest groups, and store files and links

BJB2: yes it does, Nancy

BJB2 . o O (automatically when a member logs out)

NancyGst2: WOW lots of possibilities

SusanR: and I run twice monthly after school online sessions on K to 3+ Great Resources

SandraS agrees with Nancy

BJB2: and you can participate in excellent discussions with experts in their field...like this WriteTalk discussion

SandraS applauds Susan!

BJB2 . o O (and like the K-3 discussions)

SandraS: Susan is a wonderful resource!

DeirdreJ joined the room.

BJB2: I lead a monthly arts and literacy discussion. This month's discussion was on arts and language arts

SandraS: Hello, Deirdre. Welcome to WriteTalk.

SandraS: And BJ is also a fantastic resource.

SusanR: check out the calendar of upcoming events, Debra and Nancy

SusanR: <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/do/CalendarAction?>

DebraD: I definitely will thanks

SusanR: and adjust for your time zone

BJB2: Hi, Deidre. Welcome

SandraS: Deirdre, we've been talking about writing in the elementary grades

SandraS: and talking about using drawing as a means to support writing

DeirdreJ: hello - I'm new to these so bear with me as I look around.

NancyGst2: okay I will check out this months upcoming events, thanks everyone for being so generous and informative

SandraS waves to Nancy

BJB2: it's the nature of the community, Nancy

SandraS: Deirdre, you're in good company.

NancyGst2: lol

NancyGst2 smiles

SandraS: Debra and Nancy are both new to Tapped In.

NancyGst2: brb

DeirdreJ: I teach resource students - They hate to write and practically refuse to write more than 2 sentences. How can I encourage them and help them enjoy writing?

SandraS: Great questions, Deirdre.

SandraS: There are some fantastic resources on the National Writing project website

SandraS: <http://www.writingproject.org>

SandraS: If you look at the front page, you should see a link to resources for teachers.

SandraS: The NWP also has an award-winning booklet called 30 Ideas for Teaching Writing

SandraS: great resource

SandraS: The Quarterly, which is the journal of the NWP, is available online

DebraD: I just thought of an idea for Deirdre

SandraS: since NWP believes teachers are the best teachers of other teachers, they believe in publishing teachers' ideas and practice

DeirdreJ: I just marked it as a favorite. I'll look around it later. - thanks

SandraS listens to Debra

SusanR: Have them publish and illustrate a book for younger students..with 2 sentences on each page

SandraS: Cool, Susan!

DebraD: what if she set up an activity where her students could only communicate with one another for 15 minutes by writing back and forth to one another

SandraS: Aha!

DeirdreJ: Good idea. Some of them even have babies. I could laminate and bind them - Then they could send them to their child.

SandraS: There's a great exercise in Mini-lessons for Literature Circles

SandraS: Great idea, Deirdre

SandraS: It's called "notepassing"

SandraS: and makes that illegal activity of notepassing legal....students discuss a book, or a short piece of reading, by passing notes back and forth

SandraS: the teacher calls time every 2 minutes or so

DebraD: but with teacher supervision

SandraS: it's a great way to get students to write down their thoughts, communicate, have fun

SandraS: exactly, Debra

DeirdreJ: I like that idea.

NancyGst2: I gotta go everyone. thanks for welcoming me. hope to chat with you again.

SandraS: a seventh grade teacher uses the alphabet/autobiography book idea

SandraS: Thanks for stopping by, Nancy

DeirdreJ: What's that?

SandraS: for each letter of the alphabet, the student comes up with an adjective or word relating to their own life story

SandraS: then the writer illustrates the page and writes

SandraS: it's a longer project

SandraS: then the writers can read their books to younger students

DeirdreJ: Interesting.

SandraS: something like what Susan was suggesting

SusanR: . o O (files that idea)

SandraS: I like Susan's idea of the 2-sentence limit per page!

SusanR: they take ownership...enhances their self esteem

SandraS agrees with Susan

DeirdreJ: Me too. If I told my guys they could only put 2 sentences per page - they would want to do more.

SandraS: when writing gets turned into an activity that has meaning rather than simply a requirement...

DeirdreJ: It gives them a reason to do it.

SandraS: yes, 2 sentences...that's do-able

SandraS: you can do Pourquoi stories....

SandraS: they're a series of folktales that explain something

DeirdreJ: No one wants to do what they see to be busy work.

SandraS: you can rewrite fairy tales

SandraS: I agree, Deirdre

SandraS: you can blog!

SandraS: There are all kinds of ways to offer authentic audiences, authentic writing situations.

SandraS: And Tapped In is a great place for students to work across geographic space...across time

SandraS: offers a ready-made real audience

DeirdreJ: Great ideas in here. I need to write them down

SandraS: for instance, a third grade class from Australia was online with a third grade class in Mississippi

SandraS: talking about the ocean

BJB2: you can also use the threaded discussions in the Tapped In k-12 campus, Deirdre....a safe place to bring students

SandraS: what if students wrote for each other

SandraS nods to BJ

NancyGst2 left the room (signed off).

SandraS: Oops! I just noticed the time!

SusanR: Thanks Sandra

SandraS: We're at the end of our hour...but you'll get a transcript of this talk.

DeirdreJ: I need to go also. Have a great evening and catch you later

SandraS: And you can always post questions/ideas/comments in this room. You can become a member of WriteTalk.

DeirdreJ: Thanks for the ideas.

DebraD: thanks for making my first chat so enjoyable

BJB2: thanks, Sandy!

SandraS: I usually send out a reminder of our monthly meeting.

SandraS: Thanks so much for participating, Debra and Deirdre.

SandraS: And big applause to BJ

SandraS: for such gracious facilitation

SandraS: I hope everyone has a wonderful evening.

SandraS waves goodbye to all

