

**Title of Session:** WriteTalk  
**Moderator:** BJ Berquist  
**Title of File:** 20060810writetalk  
**Date:** August 10, 2006

Room: WriteTalk Group

**KarenL** joined the room.

**KarenL:** Hi Fred!

**FredK:** Hi Bj & Karen

**KarenL:** I'm Karen Lemmons, library media specialist in Detroit.

**KarenL:** in an elementary school.

**BjB:** Karen leads the Language Arts discussions, Fred

**FredK:** I hope this means that Write Talk will continue

**BjB:** why wouldn't it?

**FredK:** You sent a message on July 28 that said it would be archived

**BjB:** o O ( all the groups get expiration notices. They are automatically computer generated )

**BjB:** Hopefully, Sandy renewed the group

**FredK:** So it wasn't you

**BjB:** no.

**KarenL:** When does language Arts expire?

**FredK:** By the way, Where is she

**BjB:** depends on when you created the group

**BjB:** Sandy said she'd be here. Hopefully she'll log in soon

**KarenL:** May, I think.

**FredK:** I will delete the July 28 message

**BjB:** Karen, you can go to the group room and look at the expiration date in About Us, I believe...if not, go to settings and group configuration

**KarenL:** Can I automatically renew it before the expiration date?

**KarenL:** I mean renew.

**BjB:** yes, but I wouldn't do it until closer to the renewal date...

**KarenL:** Okay. Thanks!

**KarenL:** I will check that out!

**BjB:** if you renew now, you'll have to renew again a year from now

**FredK** is glad we have that out of the way now

**KarenL:** Okay, I like to do things while it is fresh on the brain. If not, I'll forget. I'm old and forgetful, you know!

**KarenL:** I need reminders!

**BjB** smiles

**KarenL:** You know, BJ, I was thinking about my writing session next week. I'm thinking about including wikis as well. I had not thought about them as avenues for writing, but they would be an excellent tool.

**KarenL:** It's that old age, and that "duh" moment. . .

**FredK:** Karen, How are wikis used?

**BjB:** wikis are a good tool to include, Karen

**BjB** . o O ( didn't I send you something on them? )

**KarenL:** Yes, you did. I haven't had the time to check, but I was reminded about wikis at a meeting I attended today.

**KarenL:** Fred, wikis can be an effective tool in writing, because it collects many "voices" and whoever decides to be the "editor" could certainly take all the voices and write in one voice or edit the many voices. Is that making sense?

**KarenL** left the room (signed off).

**BjB:** whoops

**JeffC** joined the room.

**BjB** waves hi to Jeff

**JeffC** waves and lurks (going afk)... I know Sandy isn't here but who knows what'll happen.

**FredK:** Hi Jeff

**JeffC:** ttyl people

**JeffC:** afk

**FredK:** ?

**BjB:** ttyl=talk to you later

**BjB:** afk = away from keyboard

**FredK:** ty

**BjB** chuckles. You're welcome

**FredK:** I wanted to answer Karen's question

**BjB:** did you understand her response?

**FredK:** I am only acquainted with Wikipedia

**FredK:** It says it has many authors

**BjB:** wiki's are all pretty much the same. Wikipedia allows anyone to edit and/or submit to the wiki

**FredK:** Anybody can edit it?

**BjB** nods

**FredK:** Where do you set up wikis

**BjB:** although they've tightened up some of the parameters about editing and do check for malicious editing

**BjB:** there are several free ones...let me see if I can find one for you

**BjB:** pbwiki.com

**BjB:** . o O ( free )

**FredK:** I shall explore later like I did with del.icio.us yesterday

**BjB:** [http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

**FredK:** Thanks Bj

**BjB:** <http://snipsnap.org/space/start>

**BjB:** I know the webheads use a wiki, but I haven't come across it yet

**FredK:** I think I have seen that before (snipsnap). have you been using it ?

**BjB:** <http://www.wetpaint.com/>

**FredK:** . o O ( sounds like our house )

**BjB:** I've not used any wiki except the one that Heather used for the festival

**BjB:** . o O ( that's the one I'm trying to find )

**FredK:** Sorry I missed the festival, but my honey-do-s got ahead of me

**BjB:** Heather had all the announcements on the wiki...and we could all go in and edit if necessary

**BjB:** If you see Heather, ask her [Ed. Note: <http://educationalwikis.wikispaces.com/> ]

**FredK:** Copy and paste from there?

**BjB:** yes

**KarenL** joined the room.

**BjB** hugs Karen. Welcome back!

**FredK:** Welcome Back

**KarenL:** Yes, I traveled to the computer crash site. Not a good landing. . .

**KarenL:** Thanks, glad to be back!

**HollyAt** joined the room.

**BjB**: hi, Holly. Welcome

**HollyAt**: Hi

**FredK**: We have been discussing wikis

**FredK**: hi Holly

**HollyAt**: Great.

**HollyAt**: Hi

**KarenL**: What did I miss?

**BjB**: I was showing some urls for free wiki's to Fred, Karen

**FredK**: Bj had some sites to share

**KarenL**: Okay, I'll get the transcript with the urls, I hope?

**BjB**: do you recommend any particular wiki?

**BjB**: let me paste them again for you, Karen

**BjB**: pbwiki.com

**BjB**: [http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

**BjB**: <http://www.wetpaint.com/>

**KarenL**: Well, I haven't quite explored the wikis yet, but someone recommended pbwiki and seedwiki.

**KarenL**: or seed something.

**KarenL**: Never heard of wetpaint, but that would be appropriate for an artist!:)

**HollyAt**: I used pbwiki in an online literacy course I took this summer. I found it very easy to use.

**BjB**: Heather used a wiki during the festival, but can't remember which one

**BjB**: thanks, Holly

**KarenL:** Is this the one where you have to set up an account?

**BjB:** . o O ( we're learning from each other on this one )

**KarenL:** And can you create more than one wiki on that account?

**BjB:** I think they all may have that, Karen

**KarenL:** Okay. . .I got some work to do before next Thursday.

**BjB:** Holly, are you here for WriteTalk?

**HollyAt:** Yep.

**FredK:** What is your group again, Karen?

**BjB:** Sandra hasn't logged in. that usually means she's having connection problems or her back is bad again

**KarenL:** k-12 language arts. We're going to be talking about blogs, wikis and writing.

**KarenL:** I hope it is a bad connection. A bad back is very painful. . .

**FredK:** Sounds very interesting

**KarenL:** Fred, are you a k-12 teacher?

**HollyAt:** I teach middle school as well as college students and would like to use wikis with both.

**FredK:** We didn't do introductions did we

**KarenL:** You are welcome to join us, whether or not you're a teacher.

**KarenL:** Oh, I could use some expertise in the middle school. I am so elementary!

**FredK:** I am a tutor for literacy in SE Oklahoma

**KarenL:** Cool! You should join us and perhaps even think about being a "guest" moderator.

**KarenL:** I wouldn't mind one bit. . .

**FredK:** We focus on adults but sometimes get youth

**BjB:** I like the name of this wiki, but not sure if it's any good or not:  
[http://wiki.inkscape.org/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://wiki.inkscape.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

**KarenL:** Perhaps you could do something about literacy and the young adult. . .

**KarenL:** I mean on. . .

**HollyAt:** When does your group meet, Karen?

**KarenL:** The third Thursday of each month. . .right BJ?

**BjB:** do you know how to read the calendar, Holly?

**BjB** nods to Karen

**KarenL:** Holly, I'm sorry. Are you a teacher as well?

**FredK:** I cheat. I click on the little green "i"

**HollyAt:** Yes. I teach 7th grade language arts and adolescent literature at the college level. I also teach a 7th/8th grade playwriting class that uses Tapped In to extend their in-class collaborative writing projects.

**KarenL:** Yes, and you could be a guest moderator, too. We need to sign up both of you before you say no!

**FredK** . o O ( wow )

**KarenL:** Wikis would be excellent for collaborative writing projects.

**KarenL:** That's my humble opinion.

**FredK:** Take a look at the Pushmataha County Literacy Council group room

**HollyAt:** I'm available unless I end up teaching a class Thursday nights. That's what's kept me from joining this group in the past.

**HollyAt:** I absolutely agree about using wikis for collaborative projects. Any ideas about doing this?

**KarenL:** Well, how do you get the students to start writing? Do you have them come up with a topic?

**KarenL:** Do you have them use any graphic organizers or use any other prewriting strategies?

**HollyAt:** Yes, sometimes.

**KarenL:** I wonder if there are any wikis about writing plays. . .

**BjB:** what about script writing for your theater group, Holly?

**HollyAt:** Oh, now that's interesting.

**BjB** smiles...great minds, Karen

**KarenL:** BJ, is there a way search wikis for writing plays,

**KarenL:** I tell ya, nothing like it!

**BjB:** I know there is reader's theater...that's a good start

**HollyAt:** I think you're on to something, ladies.

**HollyAt:** I'm also confident that if I set up the wiki my students could run with the idea of how to use it to write their plays.

**KarenL:** Oh I love reader's theater. It is great with elementary students, and those who are "beginner" readers. Talk about engaging. . .

**BjB:** this would go with poetry [http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Writing\\_Effective\\_Songs](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Writing_Effective_Songs)

**KarenL:** you could have your students read a story and have them develop a script based on the story. If it is a chapter book, maybe they could write a scene for that chapter. Then they could act it out.

**FredK:** This doesn't fit with wikis, but I can share the Literacy Access Online where you have stories and story writing and even a Brouse Aloud  
<http://www.literacyaccessonline.com/index.asp>

**KarenL:** Oooh, and then they could use the wiki for how they would write the scene, create the stage, . . .I'm going to steal this idea myself!!!

**KarenL:** I'm getting too excited about this!!!

**KarenL:** Thanks, Fred for this resource. I could use this as well. I do know some students who love to write stories. This would be an excellent source.

**FredK:** Glad you can use it

**HollyAt:** Yes, thanks for the resource Fred. I'm going to steal this one too.

**KarenL:** Yes, Fred, I can see you as a guest moderator. Now, which month would you like to moderate?

**BjB** grins at Fred

**KarenL:** Glad you're back Holly!

**HollyAt:** Thanks. Not sure what happened.

**BjB** listens to Fred's response

**FredK:** Lets let me get something together

**KarenL:** Okay, that sounds like a plan to me!!! Let me know which month is convenient for you. I am very flexible!!!

**FredK:** I don't have it off the top right now

**FredK:** But you can count on me

**FredK:** Maybe this winter when it isn't so hot

**KarenL:** Take your time. . .I hope our group will be around for awhile. . .

**FredK:** Great

**KarenL:** You like winter?

**FredK:** I agree with the weather and the weather agrees with me

**KarenL:** Oh yes, I forgot you're in OK. . .I guess it gets a little warm there.

**KarenL:** I like that statement. . .

**FredK:** This year especially

**FredK:** NO rain

**KarenL:** I'll remember that particularly in the summer. I do not like the winters here. I am looking for some other place to live.

**KarenL:** I like San Diego, just can't afford it.

**FredK:** I lived in Nevada for my youth

**FredK:** It is hot but no humidity

**KarenL:** True. . .

**HollyAt:** Here in Florida we have heat and humidity, but no hurricanes...yet.

**BjB:** I'm assuming you have this NWP site:  
<http://www.writingproject.org/encourage/helping.csp>

**FredK:** I have been to St. Petersburg

**BjB:** sounds like you may dodge the bullet this year with hurricanes, Holly

**HollyAt:** I live on St. Pete Beach.

**HollyAt:** I hope you're right, BJ

**KarenL:** I've been to Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale.

**KarenL:** I like Florida's weather.

**HollyAt:** I do too, usually.

**KarenL:** and Eatonville.

**FredK:** o O ( I was there one summer )

**KarenL:** Zora Neale Hurston's birthplace.

**FredK:** Hot and humid

**BjB:** guys and gals, our time is up. Thanks for your contributions to the discussion...turned out to be a fruitful evening

**FredK:** I thought so

**HollyAt:** Thanks for all the great tips.

**KarenL:** Really? We were just getting started!:)

**HollyAt:** Good night.

**FredK:** Buddies?

**KarenL:** Holly, you're going to be a guest moderator right?

**BjB:** Hopefully, Sandy is ok and we'll have the next writetalk in September

**KarenL:** Yes, I hope Sandy is okay, too.

**HollyAt:** Let me see what I can put together.

**KarenL:** That sounds like a plan to me. . .

**BjB** is impressed with Karen's recruiting of guest speakers!

**KarenL:** I'll be checking, so will BJ!

**BjB** winks at Karen

**HollyAt:** I won't feel too scared;-)

**KarenL:** Thanks, everyone! this was fun and informative!

**HollyAt** left the room (signed off).

**BjB** hugs goodnight. Take care, everyone, and have a good weekend.

**KarenL:** Goodnight, everyone!

**FredK:** ty bj