

Title of Session: WriteTalk - Sharing Best Practices in Writing
Moderator: Sandra Shattuck
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Room: WriteTalk Group

SandraS: Well, let's jump in.

SandraS: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think everyone here has heard my NWP spiel...

MichelleAE: I am new.

SandraS: Welcome, Michelle.

FredK: Go for it

BJ: still good to remind everyone to go to Actions in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH

SandraS: let's start with introductions.

SandraS: after everyone detaches if she or he so desires...

FredK: I am a literacy tutor in SE Oklahoma

MaureenB: Maureen Beyrer 4th grade teacher NY

MichelleAE: Michelle Ebers preschool teacher MO

SandraS: literature/writing instructor Alabama

SandraS: and BJ teaches art in PA

SandraS: I'll start with a quick National Writing Project description

SandraS: the website is at <http://www.writingproject.org>

SandraS: there are tons of resources so it's a site well worth spending some time on

SandraS: NWP is a professional development organization

SandraS: begun in 1973

SandraS: federally funded

SandraS: each year, NWP goes to Washington to get its funding renewed

SandraS: right now, the budget is at \$30 million

SandraS: there are about 190 NWP sites housed at universities

SandraS: and each site conducts a summer institute

SandraS: that's the centerpiece project

SandraS: mostly k-12 teachers from all disciplines come together

SandraS: and write

SandraS: once a teacher goes through a summer institute, she or he can participate in any NWP events

SandraS: such as national writing retreats

SandraS: the three tenets are

SandraS: teachers teach writing more effectively if they improve their own writing

MaureenB . o O (that is the hardest part)

SandraS: teachers are the best teachers of other teachers (no canned professional development)

SandraS nods to Maureen

SandraS: and writing is a fantastic learning tool across all su**BJ**ect areas

SandraS: ok, that's pretty much my spiel

SandraS: any questions, comments...???

BJ applauds

SandraS bows

MaureenB: I know how effective it is when kids see me write

SandraS: ooh, could you discuss that a bit more...

MaureenB: finding the time is the problem

SandraS: how is it effective? how do you know?

MichelleAE: I totally agree with teachers being their own best teachers

MaureenB: I have written poems and personal narratives and shared with my students and it was very powerful

SandraS: I know my students are more willing to write and share their writing when they see me doing it

MaureenB: I saw it in their work

SandraS: cool, Maureen

SandraS: I agree, Michelle

MaureenB: but the management part of writing when they are writing...

SandraS: you mean like structure? mechanics?

MaureenB: no being so focused on my writing that who is doing what to who is problematic

SandraS: ah....

SandraS: right...that's a hard one

SandraS: well, we've got Open Topic night...so whatever you want to talk about...that's what we'll discuss

MichelleAE: I start teaching writing to the very young. I love it the students really enjoy helping me to make corrections to my writing.

SandraS: any burning challenges? thorny problems?

SandraS: shiny successes?

SandraS: in teaching and/or your own writing...

SandraS: Michelle, you work with preschool

MichelleAE: yes

SandraS: can you talk about what kind of writing you do with your students?

MichelleAE: we start out very simple

SandraS listens

SandraS: this is before they have any notion of the alphabet?

MichelleAE: we do our morning message a little different than others

SandraS: what do you do?

MichelleAE: for instance currently we have made it through about half of the alphabet

MichelleAE: next week we will start writing a morning message on Monday

MichelleAE: we start the letter with dear class

MichelleAE: modeling how we would figure out what dear starts with by listening for the beginning sound

MichelleAE: we talk about capitalization and punctuation

SandraS: wow

SandraS: that sounds pretty sophisticated for preschool

MaureenB . o O (how much patience to get them to do that)

MichelleAE: most of the fun comes in when we model getting stuck with a word or punctuation and the kids are jumping to help us

SandraS agrees with Maureen

MichelleAE: we leave the same message up all week and read it every day

SandraS: that is cool

MichelleAE: on Wed. and Thurs every student has an opportunity to circle a letter/word that they know

MichelleAE: this boost their confidence level very high

SandraS: wonderful

MichelleAE: on Friday we take the message down and send it home with a student

SandraS: they're still excited by capitalization and punctuation

MichelleAE: many parents have told us that their children read and try writing from our message

SandraS: by the time they're in college, they dread mechanics...

MichelleAE: definitely excited

SandraS: that is so cool, Michelle

FredK: runs to his office for a moment to get a quote to share.

MichelleAE: this is teaching writing for me

FredK left the room.

SandraS: so that's one thing I struggle with...how to develop excitement for writing and still attend to the more boring or difficult stuff

SandraS: thanks for describing that, Michelle

MichelleAE: it is pretty easy to get my little ones excited

MaureenB: this year my hook is technology

SandraS: aha!

MichelleAE: technology is a wonderful thing

FredK joined the room.

SandraS: sounds good Maureen...what are you doing? how are you hooking?

MaureenB: we are starting persuasive essay

MichelleAE: I wish we had more technology available to us

SandraS listens

MaureenB: and we are finished with state testing (thank goodness)

MaureenB: so we will do our writing as a script for a PSA

SandraS: oh, cool

SandraS: persuasive essay as public service announcement

MaureenB: (public service announcement

MaureenB: bring the camera out and they write write write

SandraS: wonderful

SandraS: camera...as in televising?

MaureenB: yes

SusanR joined the room.

SandraS waves to Susan

MichelleAE: sounds great Maureen

SusanR waves

MaureenB: published or shared on the class web page

SandraS: Susan, it's Open Topic night

SandraS: and Maureen is talking about using technology as a hook for writing

SusanR: good topic

SusanR: relevant

SandraS: do the writers get feedback on their PSA?

SusanR listens attentively

SandraS: Maureen has students write a public service announcement for their persuasive essay

SandraS: films it

MaureenB: yes there is always feedback from the class and me

SandraS: and they revise from that feedback?

MaureenB: before the filming they rehearse and then revise

MaureenB: they have already been filmed when we did our expository essays

SandraS: so this helps different kinds of learners...kinesthetic learners, writing...?

MaureenB: some used Power Point as their tool

SandraS: sound great

SandraS: anyone want to talk about our own writing?

SandraS: I have this freewriting prompt that I love

SandraS: I used it with classes this afternoon and evening

SandraS: here's the prompt:

SandraS: you have just gotten a book contract. You're being paid to write a book. What's the book?

SandraS: I love hearing what students would really like to write about

FredK: Where's the images come from?

FredK: "What does it matter whose head those images came from? Poetry is a conversation, not a monologue. A writer can only put the words on paper; the vision has to come from the reader, right? It's language, not paint, not film. That's the beauty of it....."

FredK: Terri Windling--"The Wood Wife" (p 113)

SandraS: thanks, Fred

SandraS: interesting quote

FredK: I posted it in my office

SandraS: so....if each person were to write a book....what would you write?

MaureenB: we have just started our conversation about how writers use words to paint a picture in our minds

SandraS listens

FredK: I picture the animal symphony

MichelleAE: I love descriptive writing

FredK: Each animal is its own musical instrument

FredK: So we have hearing as well as the picture

MichelleAE: that sounds cool Fred

FredK: So far it is in pieces

FredK: I was thinking a wiki would help put it together

SandraS: great idea, Fred

FredK: What about using the TI Wiki page

BJ: we do have a Tapped In wiki

BJ . o O (just a sec and I'll get the url)

FredK: Leo the other night got me thinking about the symphony [Ed. Note: Leo LaBarge leads a Music Across the Curriculum Tapped In discussion. BJB]

MaureenB: Jean Craighead George writes a series called the Thirteen Moon Series and someone put to music what each animal would sound like

FredK: and animals

MaureenB: may be a model to look at

SandraS: cool!

BJ: <http://tappedin.wikispaces.com/>

FredK: Can we have a new page?

BJ: you can make a new page, do whatever you want with that

FredK: thanks

BJ: that's what it was created for...to play with and learn how to use it

FredK: I think the bull frog will get it started

SusanR . o O (let's add to the dark and stormy night adventure)

SandraS: thanks BJ, for the url and the invitation to play

SandraS: cool idea, Susan

BJ: if anyone wants to join the wiki, there is a place to request that

SandraS: the dark and stormy night needs some adding...

FredK: I got your last change, Susan

SusanR: However I have to boot up Firefox to do the editing, Sandra and Fred

SandraS: did everybody visit the Tapped In wiki link BJ posted?

FredK: I agree we need to keep it going

SandraS nods to Susan

SusanR: Wiki does not like Safari

SandraS: if you go to the link, you can see the dark and stormy story

SandraS: gives an idea of the kind of writing students could do together

SandraS: we're about at the end of the hour

SandraS: any last thoughts?

SandraS: questions?

FredK: My notes are saved in Word

SandraS: great, Fred

SandraS: I think I'll go see what I can add to the story on the wiki....

BJ: thanks, Sandy

SandraS: My pleasure!

MaureenB: thanks

SandraS: if you have ideas for future WriteTalk topics, please just post to discussion in WriteTalk office

SandraS: or email me

MaureenB: don't always get to toot my own horn

SandraS: sdshattuck@gmail.com

SandraS: yeah....

SandraS believes in tooting one's horn

FredK: Question on NPW

SandraS: yes, Fred

FredK: Membership?

MichelleAE: bye all

SandraS: bye Michelle

MichelleAE left the room (signed off).

SandraS: you don't need to be a member

SandraS: for instance, if you want to go to the national meeting

SandraS: but if you want to get the full experience, just attend a summer institute

FredK: physically?

MaureenB: I want to try to go to SUNY New Paltz this summer for their institute

SandraS: yes

SandraS: oh, cool...

SandraS: that should be wonderful Maureen

FredK: could be a problem for me

SandraS: well, there are other ways to participate

SandraS: some times NWP has an online thing here at Tapped In

SusanR . o O (virtual participation)

SandraS nods to Susan

SandraS: Fred, you could also just contact whoever directs the writing project site closest to you

SandraS: just tell them you're interested

MaureenB bids all a good night

SandraS: see what happens

SandraS: good night, Maureen

SandraS: thanks so much for sharing!

FredK: thanks I will check into it

SandraS: many thanks to all

FredK: I need to go too

SandraS: hope you all have a good evening

FredK: good session

FredK: bye

SandraS: take care, Fred

SusanR: Thanks for the late admission to this session.

SandraS: always good to see you Susan

SandraS hugs BJ and Susan

SusanR: goodnight all