

**Title of Session:** Teachers-In-Training

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Title of File:** 20080313teachertraining

**Date:** March 13, 2008

Room: Teachers in Training Group

**BJB2:** you're all here for Teachers in Training?

**ElsaF:** yes

**SandraC:** yes

**BJB2:** great!

**BJB2:** while we wait for Dianne, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select detach

**BJB2:** that will make your chat window larger and easier to read

**BJB2:** you can also go to actions and select larger text

**SandraC:** much better

**ElsaF:** I remembered from tips and tricks

**BJB2:** cheers for Elsa!

**ElsaF:** thanks

**BJB2:** let's start with introductions

**BJB2:** please tell me where you are located and what you are majoring in

**SandraC:** I am in Houston and I am majoring in Bilingual Interdisciplinary Studies

**KimberlyA1:** I am Kim, from Texas, Art all-level student teacher

**ElsaF:** I am located in Houston and I am majoring in Bilingual Early Education

**KimberlyA1:** y'all go to uh

**ElsaF:** yes

**SandraC:** Yes

**KimberlyA1** : me too!

**BJB2**: looks like Kimberly and Sandra should collaborate!

**BJB2**: I'm in Pennsylvania and teach communication

**SandraC**: Kimberly what district are you in?

**KimberlyA1** : klein

**KimberlyA1** : u?

**SandraC**: Katy

**ElsaF**: I am in HISD

**SandraC**: What grade have you worked with this semester

**BJB2**: what have you found to be the most difficult part of your preservice teaching?

**BJB2** . o O ( and what has been the most fun? )

**KimberlyA1** : I am w/ all levels, elementary, now I'm in high school

**KimberlyA1** : ahhhh!!

**ElsaF**: I believe the most difficult thing has been to provide a focus to my lessons

**KimberlyA1** : difficult-not being nice all the time

**SandraC**: I find it hard to come into a classroom that has its routines set and I don't know them

**ElsaF**: Oh yes that too

**KimberlyA1** : true, and you don't want to step on any toes w/ your sbte

**SandraC**: the kids are quick to let me know that they don't do things my way

**BJB2** . o O ( now you know how subs feel all the time ;- ) )

**ElsaF**: And they make sure that you do it the right way

**SandraC**: yes they do

**KimberlyA1** : I look young, so I have a tough time getting respect from teachers and students

**BJB2**: Kimberly, what do you mean by not being nice all the time?

**KimberlyA1** : I had to change my attitude and demeanor

**SandraC**: I know exactly what you mean Kimberly

**ElsaF**: I don't think I have that problem

**BJB2**: why not, Elsa?

**KimberlyA1** : I can't think of how to say it. sorry

**SandraC**: I think I know what Kimberly was trying to say...

**ElsaF**: Because I feel that I get the same respect from students as any other teacher in the campus

**SandraC**: Sometimes you have to change your voice to make the students listen to your instructions

**ElsaF**: My SBTE's made the rules clear since the beginning.

**KimberlyA1** : they question my knowledge, in high school, not elementary

**ElsaF**: Oh that's different

**ElsaF**: Sometimes elementary children do that as well

**ElsaF**: at least mine do

**KimberlyA1** : I look like a hs kid, so they don't know I'm older

**ElsaF**: I tell them that I have to educate myself on the subject to be able to teach them

**SandraC**: I see who you could blend in with the students.

**BJB2**: we once had a chorus teacher who was tiny and young...she got a shirt that said I'M THE TEACHER

**ElsaF**: That learning never ends

**SandraC**: BJ that is funny

**KimberlyA1** : I want one of those, lol

**ElsaF**: LOL

**BJB2** smiles

**ElsaF**: Yes that is funny

**SandraC**: I have learned a lot from my teachers and my students

**KimberlyA1** : me too, it's so different than how they tell us it is going to be

**BJB2**: of course, when you have your own classroom you won't have the identity crisis, right? You're the boss and the kids will listen to every brilliant word you utter

**KimberlyA1** : I'm so glad to do this, better than alternative cert.

**SandraC**: I feel like we get the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them

**SandraC**: This in turn will make us better teachers

**ElsaF**: I do believe that once we are in our classroom things will be better

**BJB2** nods to Sandra...good approach

**SandraC**: thanks

**KimberlyA1** : my sbte has been teaching art for 29 years, I am learning her tricks

**BJB2**: things will be different, Elsa, but some things will still take adjustments

**ElsaF**: I realize that as well

**SandraC**: The older teacher have a lot of tips

**BJB2**: one of the reasons this group was created is that once you're in your classroom, you may not have a large support group giving you ideas

**BJB2** . o O ( and a shoulder to cry on )

**BJB2**: so this is a good place to come if you feel overwhelmed or want to celebrate a victory

**ElsaF**: Because even if you have everything panned out there will always be a student who is different

**BJB2** nods solemnly to Elsa

**KimberlyA1** : there is a new teacher next to me, she comes in for my sbte to have a shoulder several times a day

**SandraC**: You have to have a support system

**BJB2**: one of the most important things you can do is to empower the student to take responsibility for their own learning

**ElsaF**: yes

**ElsaF**: my sbte tells students they have to be problem solvers

**BJB2**: the second most important thing is that it's ok to make mistakes...that's how we all learn

**BJB2**: good, Elsa

**ElsaF**: and take responsibility for their actions

**KimberlyA1** : I am having a hard time with seniors, they won't do anything, how do you get them to be more responsible?

**SandraC**: The seniorities has kicked in

**BJB2**: Seniors figure they don't have to be accountable

**BJB2**: is art an elective for seniors, Kim?

**KimberlyA1** : it's hard to care, when they don't

**KimberlyA1** : yes

**BJB2**: you might want to give them some research projects on the importance of the arts

**BJB2** . o O ( if they don't want to make art, then they should become supporters of the arts )

**KimberlyA1** : ok, they will probably come back to art making, no writing for them ;)

**BJB2** . o O ( can you tell I'm also an art teacher? )

**KimberlyA1** : excellent idea

**BJB2**: your seniors are going to become members of the community....they all need to

know how important the arts are in the schools and in the community

**BJB2:** take a look at my backflip files at [www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist](http://www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist)

**BJB2:** I think I have a folder on arts advocacy

**KimberlyA1:** ok thanks

**BJB2:** there is also a group in Tapped In for arts and for arts advocacy

**BJB2:** for you ESL teachers....the arts are a wonderful bridge for language learning

**SandraC:** I agree

**ElsaF:** yes I also agree

**SandraC:** art seems to have a language of its own

**BJB2:** art can also enhance and support language learning...

**BJB2:** "reading" pictures and works of art

**ElsaF:** not only that, it is also interesting to the children

**BJB2** smiles...yes, Elsa!

**SandraC:** art allows the classroom to step out of the regular routine

**BJB2** nods

**ElsaF:** and express themselves in different ways

**BJB2:** so you need to become best friends with the arts specialist in your school ;-)

**SandraC:** that sounds like a good idea

**BJB2** . o O ( the janitor, the secretary, the librarian and the art teacher and you've got it made! )

**BJB2** winks

**SandraC:** I was just thinking the same thing

**ElsaF:** Now I am

**BJB2:** any other ideas?

**BJB2** . o O ( I'm not an ESL teacher, but I have a great deal of respect for you. )

**SandraC**: I want to give you guys a tip my teacher game me....

**BJB2** listens

**ElsaF**: I am ready

**SandraC**: she told me that if you add alcohol to the spray bottle you use to clean..

**SandraC**: the overhead it will dry faster than just using water

**SandraC**: it is less messy

**SandraC**: I just wanted to share that

**BJB2** . o O ( just so long as the kids don't huff the bottle )

**SandraC**: good point

**BJB2** . o O ( or drink it. )

**ElsaF** laughs

**SandraC**: does any one else have any other tips

**BJB2** . o O ( or should I worry that the teacher might drink it? )

**SandraC**: lol

**ElsaF**: LOL

**ElsaF**: I do not have a tip

**ElsaF**: but I do have a concern

**BJB2**: do you keep journals?

**BJB2** listens to Elsa's concern

**SandraC**: yes

**KimberlyA1**: on students, or for ourselves?

**SandraC**: I keep one on both

**BJB2:** for yourselves....like NEXT TIME I DO THIS LESSON DO NOT USE PASTE

**ElsaF:** When I start my lessons I do not provide a focus and I usually starts with "today we are going to talk about. . "

**SandraC:** What grade are you in and what subjects do you teach

**ElsaF:** I do not know if that is a big problem but I do not know how to change it

**ElsaF:** Pre K Math

**ElsaF:** now

**BJB2** listens to any suggestions Kim and Sandra might have

**ElsaF:** but I used to teach 3rd grade science

**ElsaF:** and my focus was almost always a picture

**SandraC:** You can introduce your lesson with a story

**SandraC:** pre-k students love stories

**KimberlyA1:** I start new stuff w/ powerpoints w/ fun pics that lead to my activity

**ElsaF:** that is what I did in science

**KimberlyA1:** they get excited w/ the pics

**SandraC:** you could also use puppets

**ElsaF:** but for some reason I feel that is not enough

**ElsaF:** or I do not present it correctly

**ElsaF:** puppets?

**SandraC:** any manipulatives you have can be use for a focus

**KimberlyA1:** I used that for 1st grade, they get all excited, its cute

**ElsaF:** never thought about that

**BJB2:** you could also show a 'mystery' picture and have the students try to figure out what it is

**ElsaF:** good idea

**BJB2 . o O** ( helps you check for prior knowledge )

**ElsaF:** how would I relate a mystery pic to math

**BJB2:** shapes?

**KimberlyA1 :** addition sign

**KimberlyA1 :** who knows what this is?

**ElsaF:** good idea Kimberly

**BJB2:** or an "I'm thinking of something red and round" What is it

**BJB2 . o O** ( something in the room )

**KimberlyA1 :** eye spy with my little eye...

**ElsaF:** Are we getting this discussion by email so that I do not have to take notes

**KimberlyA1 :** yes

**BJB2:** collect a bunch of items and have the children figure out how many items they have found and how could we write this down

**BJB2 . o O** ( yes, I spy with my little eye...thank you! )

**BJB2:** and yes, you will get a transcript of this discussion emailed to you after you log out

**ElsaF:** Thanks to the three of you

**SandraC:** hey we are all here to help each other

**BJB2** smiles happily...collaboration

**ElsaF:** It seems so easy when all of you say it but I lack on that

**BJB2:** comes with experience, Elsa.

**BJB2:** that's why the first couple of years of teaching are the hardest

**SandraC:** That is the great thing about student teaching we get the chance to practice

**ElsaF:** yes we do

**SandraC:** I agree with you BJ

**BJB2:** also, don't forget the many discussions on the TI calendar

**ElsaF:** such as?

**BJB2:** . o O ( Elsa, the K to 3+ Resource room has tons of ideas and resources )

**SandraC:** I am glad that you guys have this chat because I have a feeling that I am going to be needing your support my first few years

**ElsaF:** thank you

**ElsaF:** BJ

**BJB2:** I've been teaching for 24 years and I still need the support, Sandra...

**SandraC:** lol

**BJB2:** being in a classroom alone with kids all day can be pretty lonely and isolating

**SandraC:** yes it can

**SandraC:** other people don't understand what we go through

**BJB2:** I've learned so much from participating in the Tapped In discussions...problem solving, shoulders to cry on, ideas and new ways to look at familiar things

**ElsaF:** Other people who are not in the teaching profession?

**SandraC:** yes

**KimberlyA1:** that's why teachers marry teachers so much

**BJB2:** and parents always feel their little one is a genius and can do no wrong

**SandraC:** I try to talk to my husband sometimes and he just doesn't get it

**ElsaF:** that is very true

**ElsaF:** My husband does not understand why I feel tired and frustrated sometimes

**BJB2:** if it's any consolation, Sandra, my hubby is an electrical engineer....clueless. But

we've been married for 40 years

**SandraC:** sometimes you have great supportive parents but other times you get the opposite

**SandraC:** I guess were in the same boat BJ

**ElsaF:** I've seen both during my student teaching

**KimberlyA1:** I haven't met any parents

**ElsaF:** and there is three of us  
in the boat

**BJB2** smiles.

**SandraC:** don't feel left out Kim

**ElsaF:** what about you Kimberly

**KimberlyA1:** left out of what?

**SandraC:** the boat

**BJB2** laughs...the love boat?

**ElsaF** smiles

**ElsaF** laughs

**KimberlyA1:** b/c I'm not married?

**BJB2:** we're just kidding, Kim

**KimberlyA1:** sorry, I lost what y'all were saying

**BJB2:** we are mostly concerned with finding colleagues who understand the stress that a teacher experiences

**ElsaF:** people do not understand

**ElsaF:** teachers

**BJB2:** sometimes it's a spouse, but often it's not

**ElsaF:** what they go through

**ElsaF:** yes

**KimberlyA1:** my boyfriend is a teacher

**ElsaF:** lucky

**KimberlyA1:** he listens to me

**BJB2:** a match made in heaven!

**SandraC:** I agree

**BJB2:** do you listen to him?

**SandraC:** what does he teach

**KimberlyA1:** social studies, 6th grade, hisd

**BJB2:** Kim, you should tell your boyfriend about the Tapped In social Studies forum

**KimberlyA1:** yes I listen, I know his problem kids

**KimberlyA1:** I've told him about the website

**SandraC:** I am starting to stress out about finding a job

**SandraC:** how about you guys

**KimberlyA1:** oh yes!!!!

**ElsaF:** yes

**KimberlyA1:** I'm trying to find a job, but I have student teaching and 3 extra classes

**KimberlyA1:** no time

**SandraC:** The school that I am student teaching at does not have any bilingual openings yet for next year

**BJB2:** a bazillion teachers are going to be retiring ...the teacher market should be wide open

**ElsaF:** I feel that nobody will hire me

**KimberlyA1:** woo hoo

**SandraC:** I had an interview Tuesday and I still haven't heard from them yet

**ElsaF:** I heard in the news that HISD was firing teachers

**ElsaF:** or something in those lines

**KimberlyA1:** just art teachers ;(

**ElsaF:** ??

**BJB2:** that's why you need that arts advocacy program, Kim

**KimberlyA1:** art and music on the north side

**ElsaF:** Really?

**BJB2:** that's happening all over the country

**ElsaF:** That still makes me worry because I want to teach in HISD

**SandraC:** I heard they hire a lot of bilingual teacher so I think you have a great opportunity to get in with them

**ElsaF:** They do?

**BJB2:** ESL teachers are in demand...I agree with Sandra

**KimberlyA1:** they want them in every classroom at hisd

**KimberlyA1:** my boyfriend told me

**BJB2:** but don't worry, Kim....the arts are going to be rebounding.

**BJB2:** we need thinkers and problem solvers and the arts are an important way to teach that

**SandraC:** I feel overwhelmed because of graduation, getting hired, and finishing classes this semester

**KimberlyA1:** me too!

**SandraC:** I can only imagine how you feel Kim with your 3 extra classes

**BJB2:** sounds like you all need a party!

**SandraC:** everything is so expensive for graduation

**ElsaF:** Not only that we have to worry about our personal problems as well

**SandraC:** have you guys gotten your caps and gowns

**ElsaF:** yes

**KimberlyA1:** last week

**ElsaF:** me too

**KimberlyA1:** I'm putting an apple on my cap,

**KimberlyA1:** I graduate with the art department

**ElsaF:** how authentic

**SandraC:** so you wont be with us for graduation

**KimberlyA1:** no, education doesn't want us

**KimberlyA1:** jj

**SandraC:** what time is your graduation?

**KimberlyA1:** 9 am on the 9th

**SandraC:** On Friday?

**KimberlyA1:** yes, is that wierd?

**SandraC:** yes

**ElsaF:** why?

**ElsaF:** Are you there BJ

**BJB2** looks at the clock on the wall

**KimberlyA1:** that's what they told us in the bookstore, ordering announcements

**BJB2** nods to Elsa

**BJB2:** I understand that you're all feeling overwhelmed right now...

**SandraC:** My friends from student teaching wanted to go sky diving because our graduation is so early, but I heard this morning some one died yesterday from skydiving

**SandraC:** I think we are going to change our minds

**KimberlyA1:** I heard that too

**BJB2:** but it's such an exciting time in your lives....enjoy the moment

**BJB2:** . o O ( I think I'd rethink the skydiving thing also )

**ElsaF:** I just want to get through it

**SandraC:** But I don't want to die the day I receive my diploma

**ElsaF:** I will be enjoying it when I am settled

**BJB2** hopes Sandra lives many years after getting her diploma...so she can pay back her student loans ;-)

**KimberlyA1:** lol

**ElsaF** laughs

**SandraC:** thank full I don't have any

**BJB2** grins...now that you're all smiling....

**SandraC:** I want to give you guys a special thank you for your good listening ears

**BJB2:** Thank you all for joining this discussion. I hope you found it beneficial and will join us again and let me know how you're all doing

**ElsaF:** and for your great ideas

**SandraC:** have a good night, bye

**BJB2** waves goodnight

**ElsaF:** Thank you for hearing us **BJB2**

**KimberlyA1:** thank you for filling in bjb

**ElsaF** waves bye

**BJB2:** my pleasure!