

Title of Session: WriteTalk
Moderator: BJ Berquist and Jeff Cooper
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Room: WriteTalk Group

CeciliaS: hello **BjB**

BjB : Sandy is a little late too, Cecilia...

CeciliaS: okay

CeciliaS: good

BjB : I think it's the back to school thing that has everyone discombobulated

CeciliaS: yes big time

CeciliaS: to some of us is work and school

CeciliaS: BJ how does this work

CeciliaS: it is the first time I am doing this

BrendaM: me too

BjB : well, then let's get this show on the road!

AdelaWa: Ok

BjB : normally, the presenter shows up first ;-)

CeciliaS: lets move it then

CeciliaS: oh okay

BjB : but I think the time change for this event has her running late

JeffC joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Jeff

JeffC waves

BjB : so let's start with introductions...

CeciliaS: okay as long as we get it done

CeciliaS: cool

BjB : please tell us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

CeciliaS: I am Cecilia, live in Pharr, TX and attend UTPA

CeciliaS: plan to teach a bilingual Classroom at the elementary level

CeciliaS: more like 2nd grade

BrendaM: I'm Brenda from South Texas, I'm a Jr at UTPA and I will be teaching bilingual education EC-6

CeciliaS: I am a TA right now

AdelaWa: I am Adela, I live in Mission, TX, attending UTPA and I am planning to teach English at the secondary level

BrendaM: hopefully second or third graders

CeciliaS: We have heard about Jeff C

CeciliaS: nice things only

JeffC: uh oh

AdelaWa: Oh yes

BrendaM: actually about both of you

CeciliaS: yes both but more Jeff

CeciliaS: like to be very helpful

JeffC: thanks

AdelaWa: Our professor was chatting with Jeff in front of the whole class

CeciliaS: yes

CeciliaS: we were the ones where he happen to write something to D. Brown in a language we didn't understand

BrendaM: you guys are great, really helpful

AdelaWa: I think it was Russian

BjB: Jeff and I are both on Tapped In helpdesk.

CeciliaS: yes something like that Adela

BjB didn't know Jeff spoke Russian!

BrendaM smiles

CeciliaS smiles

JeffC doesn't know Russian... but knows how to copy/paste from a translation site!

CeciliaS: ooooohhhhhhhhhhh

CeciliaS: lol

AdelaWa: smart

AdelaWa: if you don't have to speak it

BrendaM: sharing skills Jeff...lol

CeciliaS: now we know what do

CeciliaS: copy and paste

JeffC: yup

BrendaM: so Cecilia you are an TA

BrendaM: where at

BjB: so, what do you think this WriteTalk discussion is about, Brenda and Cecilia?

BjB . o O (and Adela)

CeciliaS: with the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD located in South Texas deep down south

BrendaM: probably about sharing ideas, activities on how to improve or develop writing activities in the classroom

CeciliaS: that is a tough one

CeciliaS: but it more oh how to write

AdelaWa: Well I think it will help us improve on either teaching how to write or simply improving our writing skills

CeciliaS: oh ideas to help our students open up

CeciliaS: with their writing skills

BjB: the topic is more broad than that...

CeciliaS: oh really

AdelaWa: Maybe share thoughts on how to teach it

CeciliaS: okay help us out more then

BjB: Sandy usually starts by saying that writers are the best teachers of writing...

BjB: and that writing should take place across the curriculum

CeciliaS: that is right, since they already know how to write

CeciliaS: it does BJ

CeciliaS: or am I wrong

BjB chuckles...never wrong, Cecilia!

CeciliaS smiles

BjB . o O (always how can you say that in another way)

CeciliaS: meaning

BjB: The National Writing Project has resources that are fabulous

BjB . o O (you never tell a student they are wrong ;-)

BrendaM: yes I'm looking at the links in Sandra's whiteboard

BjB: go to www.nwp.org and do a search for bilingual

BrendaM: always a positive environment in the classroom.. :)

CeciliaS: it won't make us leave this session

BjB: Cecilia, hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url

BrendaM: wow 173 entries

CeciliaS: oh okay

BjB: www.nwp.org and do a search for bilingual

BjB: take a quick look and come back and share what you found

CeciliaS: ok there

BjB: you ok, Adela?

AdelaWa: Um

CeciliaS: what happen Adela

AdelaWa: I don't know

AdelaWa: It just cleared and came back to the room

CeciliaS: I think you need the website address

CeciliaS: that Bj send to us

CeciliaS: it is all about writing

AdelaWa: great

AdelaWa: that's one of my many interests since I am majoring in English

CeciliaS: oh wow

CeciliaS: I thought you were bilingual too

AdelaWa: oh no

BrendaM: look at this one later on Cecilia looks really interesting Bilingual Minorities and

BrendaM: Language Issues in Writing:

BrendaM: Toward Profession-Wide Responses

BrendaM: to a New Challenge

BrendaM: Guadalupe Valdés with an accent

CeciliaS: that is right words have no borders

AdelaWa: I am majoring in English Minorng in Communications

CeciliaS: oh that is good

CeciliaS: Writing is very essential

AdelaWa: Yes it is

CeciliaS: writing is in everything

BrendaM: it is definitely a tool we must value as future teachers

CeciliaS: and you need for everything

BjB: www.nwp.org is the site I gave Brenda and Cecilia, Adelia

AdelaWa: Oh yes I am looking over it

BjB: you can do a search for communication or English

CeciliaS: yes it is

BjB: . o O (or language arts)

CeciliaS: NWP

CeciliaS: it is title National Writing Project

CeciliaS: Bj

BjB: yes

CeciliaS: which it is suppose to improve student achievement by improving the teaching of writing and improving learning in the nation's schools.

BjB: Sandy gives a better overview of NWP. But the search is great and gives you a better idea of how to use writing across the curric.

BrendaM: yes remember the article we read for class

CeciliaS: yes it does

CeciliaS: and yes I remember it

BrendaM smiles

AdelaWa: its a very interesting website

BjB: The National Writing Project, a federally-funded, professional development group founded in 1974, believes in three basic tenets: 1) teachers are the best teachers of other teachers, 2) teachers teach writing more effectively if they improve their own writing, and 3) writing provides a powerful tool for learning in all subject areas.

AdelaWa: there's endless information by different authors

CeciliaS: I find this comment very true "Writing can and should be taught, not just assigned, at every grade level. Professional development programs should provide opportunities for teachers to work together to understand the full spectrum of writing development across grades and across subject areas".

BrendaM: I strongly agree that teachers are the best teachers of other teachers

CeciliaS: that is very true Bj

CeciliaS: why is Jeff not talking

BjB: That is what Sandy has written in the welcome note for this room

AdelaWa: No wonder it looked familiar

BjB: Jeff is probably multitasking...and you gave him such a swelled head with your compliments that he's just too full of himself ;-)

AdelaWa: I knew I had read that some where

CeciliaS: Is there only one way to teach writing?

BrendaM: I don't so

BjB: I don't think there is one way to teach anything!

JeffC: back... what should I be doing?

BjB: tell us about how to teach writing, Jeff ;-)

JeffC: hmmm... well...

JeffC: start with autobiographical incident...

CeciliaS: yes but writing seems to be very hard

CeciliaS: to teach

JeffC: <http://snurl.com/netc1> ...use Bay Area Writing Project guidelines.

JeffC: get the kids to write about what's important to them... make it relevant.

CeciliaS: okay

JeffC: get involved with global project based learning.

CeciliaS: so we should not give them any topic

BrendaM: make it fun

BrendaM: for kids

JeffC: have them communicate with others in other countries... use <http://www.epals.com>

CeciliaS: that is a good one

BrendaM: epals, interesting

JeffC: get them to respond to each other... peer reviewing and editing.

CeciliaS: how about the language differences

JeffC: give them lots of candy when they write.

CeciliaS: lol

CeciliaS) good one

JessicaPu joined the room.

BjB : good job, Jessica

JeffC: have them write books online at <http://www.tikatok.com>

CeciliaS: wow

CeciliaS: write books online

JeffC: yup

CeciliaS: that sounds great

AdelaWa: I like the idea of peer reviewing

CeciliaS: yes the peer reviewing and online book writing

AdelaWa: I was taught to do the silent table sharing

BrendaM: thanks for all the resources

CeciliaS: that got my attention Jeff

AdelaWa: it is helpful because student get feedback from peers rather than just the teacher

JessicaPu: hi

CeciliaS smiles

CeciliaS: hello Jessica

JessicaPu: sorry I had trouble getting in

BjB: what Jeff is saying is that students will write better for an authentic audience...

CeciliaS: yes something students get hurt when the teacher make many negative comments on their paper

BrendaM: don't worry Jeff and Bj were great

JessicaPu: yes

BjB: whether it is epals, a blog, a wiki, or an online book

CeciliaS: got that covered

BrendaM: we need to be very careful on how we give feedback

CeciliaS: is that digital writing

JessicaPu: it is true that students get discourage when they get corrected if its not done correctly

CeciliaS: Jeff or Bj

BjB: do you?

JeffC: well... if the focus is on proper grammar and spelling, and all a student gets is a bunch of red inked corrections... then yeah... what's the point?

JeffC: writing is a process

BjB: I agree with Jeff...and editing is part of the process

CeciliaS: that is right

JeffC: the important thing is to get them thinking

AdelaWa: As teachers, we need to learn to evaluate writing for its information

CeciliaS: thinking of different things or topics

BrendaM: absolutely

CeciliaS: that is right

JeffC: just thinking in general... about anything... outside the box...

CeciliaS: that is even better

JessicaPu: and doing an outline for a better guideline of an essay

JeffC: critical thinking, creative thinking, whatever.

AdelaWa: And not judging it personally but valuing it for what it is worth

CeciliaS: in general

JeffC: sure... use Inspiration to brainstorm, etc.

BjB: Sandy has a list of ideas for teaching writing: <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/922>

JeffC: that's one way to organize thoughts (and papers)

CeciliaS: can that be access at a later time

BjB : btw, the NWP eVoice newsletter is very good

CeciliaS: I really think it will help us when we are out there in the field

BjB : yes, Cecilia. The url is posted in this group room

BrendaM: a thanks for the tip Bj

CeciliaS: that is great

JessicaPu: ok so students should be encourage to write on stuff they are confident in for a better paper

CeciliaS: not only confident but something they want to explore more

CeciliaS: as i see it

JessicaPu: yeah trying something new

BjB : yes, it helps if they are writing about something they enjoy

AdelaWa: I believe that teachers should not assign a specific thesis students should write about but allow them to create their own

BrendaM: if they feel confident, they will be more creative, and I think they will work better, since they feel confident with the topic

CeciliaS: I think that assign topics that the teacher wants to know

BjB : depends on the purpose of the 'thesis', Adelia

CeciliaS: will not help them at all

AdelaWa: Oh no doubt

JessicaPu: right...but teachers do it anyways

CeciliaS: oh got a big question

CeciliaS: should kids at a 2nd grade level be encourage to write

CeciliaS: a thesis

BrendaM: when you feel you know something, you try different things, because you feel you got things under control

AdelaWa: That's a good question

BjB: they absolutely should be encouraged to write and journal, Cecilia

JessicaPu: hmm good question

AdelaWa: I think they should

BjB . o O (even in first grade)

JessicaPu: a journal would be a great idea

CeciliaS: I feel that would be more for junior high kids

JessicaPu: this way they can get practice

CeciliaS: a journal and small essays

BjB nods

CeciliaS: yes and even write

BrendaM: I think it will be great for kids

BjB: my grandson is going into second grade this year...

CeciliaS: that is something to try

CeciliaS: that is why I ask

AdelaWa: They can even keep a journal for reading assignments

CeciliaS: really

AdelaWa: books they enjoy

BjB: and he took a calendar home at the end of the year that had assignments he had to complete over the summer...

BjB: he started his own blog

BrendaM: wow

CeciliaS: wow

CeciliaS: assignments for the summer

JessicaPu: that's a good idea

CeciliaS: where is this located

BjB: I'll show you the blog, but please don't share the url

CeciliaS: lol

AdelaWa: oh ok

CeciliaS: sure

BrendaM: top secret

AdelaWa: our lips are sealed

CeciliaS: always sealed

CeciliaS: remember future teachers

BjB: <http://hansolo2002.blogspot.com/>

JessicaPu: not really

CeciliaS: cool fish

CeciliaS: hey we can try this with our students

CeciliaS: well of course with their parents permission like always

BjB: that's an example of writing for an authentic audience

BrendaM: Thanks for sharing Bj

CeciliaS: that is right thanks for sharing

BjB: . o O (it helps that his mom is a teacher and his dad is a principal!)

CeciliaS: may we write a comment on it

BrendaM: sometimes we don't think outside the box

AdelaWa: it's a great way to include technology

CeciliaS: OH

BjB : please do, Cecilia!

CeciliaS: wowow

CeciliaS: thank you

AdelaWa : that is one of the debates our group had...

BjB listens to Adela

AdelaWa : whether technology was essential in an educational environment

BrendaM: you guys have provided us great tools for our classrooms

JessicaPu: to include technology in the classroom

AdelaWa : I honestly believe that...

BjB : that is a huge debate!

BrendaM: technology?

CeciliaS: technology should always be included

CeciliaS: in a classroom

CeciliaS: if you have access to it

CeciliaS: of course

JessicaPu: yes I think they are very good ideas

AdelaWa : as the generation continues to change into a more advance technological environment, so should the educators

BjB : it's not the technology itself...it's what can be accomplished with the technology

BjB : your audience can be global

CeciliaS: students as young as 4 already know how to use a computer

CeciliaS: with basic skills but they know

BjB nods to Cecilia

BrendaM: that is true Bj

CeciliaS: that is right Bj

JessicaPu: yes

BrendaM: technology have change the way we learn, and teach

BjB: yep

AdelaWa: children (nowadays) are not interested in most of the things we used as tools when we were in grade school

CeciliaS: this things we can even use it with our own children

CeciliaS: Adela when I was in school I don't recall computers

CeciliaS: it was till I was in junior high

BjB: Han, my grandson, is very comfortable with tech...and I went to school before computers were invented

BrendaM: I do, but they wont let us use them

BrendaM: lol

JessicaPu: my little sister went into this website the other day were she was practicing her spelling and she said she enjoyed it and learned a lot

CeciliaS: that is good

AdelaWa: I do and we were excited because we had never seen them before in our lives

BrendaM: technology make learning fun in most cases

CeciliaS: www.learning.com is a site

AdelaWa: And that was before students were taught to use the web

CeciliaS: they use where I work

JessicaPu: I will try that one with my sister later

BjB: there are a zillion sites! You might want to visit the K to 3+ Resources group

JessicaPu: also pbs kids has good learning games

AdelaWa: When I was a teacher aid, I used tons of websites that were educational and at the same time fun for students

BrendaM: I will Bj

JessicaPu: do they give you more ideas there BJ?

BjB: there are many resources in that group room...and Sue Roseman leads a monthly discussion for K-3+

BjB: yes, Jessica

JessicaPu: uh I better check for the next available

BrendaM smiles

BjB: and just like you learned about some different ideas about writing in this discussion, all the TI discussions are places where educators can collaborate

CeciliaS: this is great

BrendaM: really?

BjB . o O (I know you had an assignment to participate in TI discussions...)

JeffC: you can also create your own virtual classroom here... and use it to support writing projects for your students.

JessicaPu: I want it to do that

BjB: the support/collaboration is what I find the most valuable...

CeciliaS: how do you create that

CeciliaS: thank you for all that help

JessicaPu: I'm just scared I wouldn't be able to master it

BjB: Jeff leads a discussion every Saturday on how to create a K-12 student classroom

AdelaWa: that would be fun for students

CeciliaS: it sure will

CeciliaS: okay good

AdelaWa: this website should be put out there more

JessicaPu: Jeff are you conducting this Saturday?

JeffC: 10 a.m. pacific

BjB: Jessica, it does take practice...but you were unsure of how to participate in this discussion and I think you enjoyed it?

BrendaM: I have to say the more I know about Tapped In the more I like it

BjB smiles...exactly, Brenda

JessicaPu: Yes I have

AdelaWa: I am definitely going to continue coming to this site even after our class ends

CeciliaS: it is a great site

JeffC: noon your time Cecelia

BjB: we've managed to fritter away an hour already! Any last minute questions or comments?

JessicaPu: I will try to make it Jeff

CeciliaS: I just found out about it this semester thru Ms. D. Brown

CeciliaS: good thanks for that

CeciliaS: so soon

CeciliaS: one hour

BrendaM: I just wanted to thank you guys for your time, and your tips

JessicaPu: yes Thank you so much for everything

BrendaM: thanks Jessica

CeciliaS: thank you for your time to help us know more on writing

BjB: my pleasure, Brenda. Sandy sent me an email and promises to be here on Sept. 10 for her next discussion

CeciliaS: okay great

JessicaPu: I really enjoyed being part of this conversation

CeciliaS: so did I Jessica

AdelaWa: Yes thank you

BjB: me too! You all were great :-)

AdelaWa: We can go on forever

JessicaPu smiles

CeciliaS: same to you and Jeff

JeffC: yw

CeciliaS: he might be sleeping right now

BrendaM: well good night to all, and I will be around

JeffC is **always** sleeping

CeciliaS: that is a jk

BjB waves goodnight. Time to go spend some time with my grandson

CeciliaS: bye

BrendaM: bye

JessicaPu: bye good night

AdelaWa: Bye

CeciliaS: enjoy it