

Title of Session: WriteTalk
Moderator: Sandra Shattuck
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Room: WriteTalk Group

SandraS: Paul, we usually introduce ourselves.

SandraS: We might wait a few seconds more for stragglers...

SandraS: Looks like you've been a member of TI for a couple months.

SandraS: How are you finding it?

LindaJM joined the room.

SandraS waves to Linda

BJB2 waves hi to Linda. Welcome!

PaulI: great

LindaJM: it's me again

BJB2: Sandy, Linda is a seasoned Tapped In event participant!

BJB2 . o O (this is her second discussion)

SandraS: Welcome back, Linda

SandraS: You and Paul are from the same area...

SandraS: my old stomping grounds when I was at UT Austin

PaulI: UT Austin is a fun place

SandraS: Yes -- and huge!

LindaJM: I'm from San Antonio- TEXAS!!!!

SandraS: Yeah!

LindaJM: sorry I just love Texas

SandraS: That's OK -- most Texas folks do.

LindaJM: that's true

SandraS: OK, why don't we get started?

SandraS: Let's introduce ourselves -- what we teach and where... I teach writing and literature at the college level in Alabama

BJB2: I'm on Tapped In helpdesk and am located in Pennsylvania

LindaJM: I am still in school- soon to be certified in teaching EC-6

PaulI: Same here

SandraS: Excellent! Welcome!

SandraS: I'll start with an introduction to the National Writing Project and then we can talk about writing

SandraS: Do either of you know the National Writing Project?

PaulI: No

LindaJM: I know it's to improve writing in schools

SandraS: Yes, Linda -- here's a quick introduction --

SandraS: 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.

SandraS: The NWP has about 200 sites around the nation located at universities

SandraS: each site holds a summer institute or SI

SandraS: after a teacher participates, he or she becomes a teacher consultant and can then participate in any NWP activity such as writing retreats or the annual meeting

SandraS: which is coming up next week

SandraS: The summer institutes usually last 4 weeks-- at some of them, participants get college credit

SandraS: at others, participant might get a stipend

SandraS: they're fantastic opportunities

SandraS: The NWP website is vast we'll visit in a moment

PaulI: Interesting

LindaJM: wow

SandraS: so if you're interested in science and writing, it's easy enough to find ideas on the website for using writing in science

SandraS: I love that the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics has a writing curriculum for teaching math...

SandraS: so the NWP really believes that writing is a powerful tool for learning in any subject

SandraS: Any comments, thoughts, questions, before we go on?

LindaJM: which makes sense since it's the foundation for communication

SandraS nods

PaulI: None so far. Good info,

SandraS: Great!

LindaJM: how does project affect schools directly?

SandraS: I mean, speech is also great for communication...but writing allows you to explore perhaps more in-depth

SandraS: OK, so when we visit the website

SandraS: you might want to check the map in the upper right-hand corner

SandraS: you can locate a NWP site near you

SandraS: but go ahead and type something into the search box and see what comes up

SandraS: after you explore a couple minutes, come on back here

SandraS: remember to hold down the control button when you click on the link

SandraS: here's the URL

SandraS: <http://nwp.org>

BJB2 . o O (if you're on a pc, hold down ctrl)

BJB2 checks to see if Paul and Linda got the url?

PaulI: Yup

LindaJM: got it

SandraS: Anybody back yet?

LindaJM: yes

SandraS: Great!

SandraS: I've decided I'd like to go visit the site in Puerto Rico....

PaulI: Yes

LindaJM: A LOT of INFO

SandraS: Yes.

SandraS: It's a very rich site.

BJB2 grins at Sandy...in the winter, of course?

SandraS: There are also a good number of projects.

SandraS: But of course, BJ!

SandraS: I'll take the Virgin Islands site, too.

SandraS: There's a Reading Initiative, ELL Initiative, Rural Sites Initiative...

LindaJM: yes lots of ideas for projects

SandraS: Did we lose Paul?

PaulI: I'm still here

SandraS: Great!

BJB2 . o O (he's buying his airline tickets)

SandraS: OK, so...we're open for discussion.

LindaJM: lol

SandraS: LOL

PaulI: hehe

SandraS: We've got an open session this evening.

SandraS: Free-for-all talk on anything writing...

SandraS: your own writing

SandraS: in grad school, as a teacher, outside of school

LindaJM: So how does this project affect schools directly?

SandraS: your students' writing -- future students, imagined students...

SandraS: The NWP?

LindaJM: yes

SandraS: It's a professional development project

PaulI: Any general tips for elementary kids in writing? Just curious

SandraS: Everything goes towards developing teachers' skills in teaching writing, in writing themselves

SandraS: and the NWP encourages teacher research

SandraS: and publishing from that research

LindaJM: is it mainly through the teachers initiative?

SandraS: and yes, Paul, there's a LOT of info on elementary school writing

SandraS: Well, NWP is all teachers...

SandraS: So what's really exciting about the summer institute, for instance, is that you're in a room with teachers from kindergarten through grad. school

SandraS: and we all share our ideas

SandraS: I've gotten ideas from middle-school teachers that I've used at the college level

LindaJM: wow

SandraS: then there are professional development projects that each site does

PaulI: That's cool

SandraS: these might be embedded and long term

SandraS: so some NWP folks might go to one elementary school and conduct a workshop discussing some theory, and also implement the practice in the classes

PaulI: Very interesting

SandraS: If you go to the site and type in "elementary school writing" -- you'll likely get a large number of hits -- these could be articles written by elementary school writers.

SandraS: Um, teachers...who are also writers.

SandraS: Just a sec...I'll be right back with a URL...

LindaJM: ok

SandraS: Here's one article

SandraS: <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/2521>

SandraS: and another

SandraS: <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/2925>

SandraS: I typed in "elementary school" into the NWP website search box and came up with lots of hits

SandraS: Those are just two.

PaulI: Good articles

SandraS: Yes...lots of creativity.

SandraS: So those two articles focus on one general guideline for writing across grades -
- use an authentic audience. If writers know their writing will be published or showcased, they have a different sense of urgency and accomplishment ... rather than just writing for the teacher.

SusanR joined the room.

SandraS waves to Susan

SusanR: hi Sandra

PaulI: Hi, Susan

SusanR: and good evening Paul

SandraS: Another resource -- one that can be used for elementary school --

SandraS nods to Susan, elementary school expert

SandraS: is the National Gallery of Writing

SusanR listens

SandraS: Did you hear about the National Day on Writing?

SandraS: October 20?

PaulI: No

SandraS: The U.S. now has an official National Day on Writing

PaulI: Didn't know that

SusanR: I wonder if Canada does too

SandraS: the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) proposed it and the House passed it last June -- the Senate passed it just 8 Oct.

SandraS: Would be interesting to find out, Susan.

LindaJM: wow

SusanR . o O (a wonderful idea)

SandraS: But here's the thing -- big huge online writing gallery has been set up

SandraS: National Gallery on Writing

SandraS: and it's made of up of local galleries

SandraS: some of which are based in elementary schools

SandraS: so a second-grade class, for instance, could visit the gallery and read writing by their peers

SandraS: Let me get you the URL

SandraS: <http://galleryofwriting.org/>

SandraS: Here's some more information

SandraS: <http://www.ncte.org/magazine/gallery>

SandraS: Anyone can submit any kind of writing -- as long as it's not sexually explicit or contains offensive language....

SusanR: all ages?

SandraS: after all, elementary school kids may read it...

SandraS: Yes!

SandraS: Isn't that cool?

SandraS: You can search for local galleries in your area

LindaJM: wow you can search for a lot of things

PaulI: You sure can

SandraS: I set up one from our Writing Center

SandraS: called Rocket City: Writing Space

SandraS: we got very few submissions

SandraS nods to Linda

LindaJM: the purpose , tech used, media type

SusanR: I notice the twitter account as well

SusanR: <http://twitter.com/dayonwriting>

SandraS: Thanks, Susan.

SandraS: The Twitter page is very helpful, too.

SandraS: The Gallery opened on 20 October.

SandraS: And folks can continue to submit.

SandraS: The idea is to draw attention to all the kinds of writing we do on a daily basis.

SandraS: I think the whole Gallery can be a great teaching tool.

SandraS: I'm trying to figure out how to use it next semester.

PaulI: Very interesting

SandraS: Any ideas?

SandraS: How would you use the Gallery in your classroom?

LindaJM: maybe you could have the students search the site for ideas on creating their own potential submission to the gallery

SandraS: Well, maybe we'll need a WriteTalk session on that...

SandraS: Oh, that's a great idea, Linda.

SandraS: I like that.

PaulI: That would work.

SandraS: I invited students to submit but didn't get anything.

LindaJM: and then you could have your own gallery with just the works from the students in your class

SandraS: If they saw all the submissions already there, maybe they'd decide to submit.

SandraS nods to Linda

BJB2: While I'm thinking of it, Sandy is leading a special Learning Hub discussion on Monday, November 16

LindaJM: oh ok

BJB2 . o O (and Sandy leads this WriteTalk discussion every month on the second Thursday)

SandraS: It's at 4pm central, right BJ?

SandraS: the focus will be writing across the curriculum

BJB2: yes, the Nov. 16 one is at 4 central

SandraS: OK, so should we delve into your writing, Linda and Paul?

SandraS: What are you writing in grad school?

PaulI: Basically research article papers

SandraS: We're about to have a graduate student writing conference through our Writing Center...

LindaJM: I am interested in your opinion on whether technology tools affect the quality of students writing

SandraS: So what's the most enjoyable thing about writing for you? What's the most challenging?

MollyJ joined the room.

SandraS nods to Linda

PaulI: The most challenging is making sure...

SandraS: Great question!!!

SandraS listens to Paul

PaulI: grammar is correct

SandraS: Thanks for sharing that, Paul.

LindaJM: do you think it makes them lazy writers

SandraS: A quick answer to Linda -- I think technology opens up the world of writing in creative ways

SandraS: often surprising ways

SandraS: first of all, huge number of publication possibilities

SandraS: blogs, wikis, Nings

SandraS: and then there's collaboration through writing

SandraS: through these same things

SandraS: or Tapped In

SandraS: email

SandraS: Google Docs

SandraS: and on

LindaJM: Discussions and threads

SandraS: and then there are the students who may be shy in class

SandraS: they often write the most on blogs or wikis or discussion lists

SandraS: and those who are visually, graphically oriented will shine in online environments like Second Life

LindaJM: I agree I do think its especially helpful for visual learners

SandraS: in one summer writing retreat, I had a 7th grade teacher write about using Microsoft Word's grammar check as a way for students to question the program and learn more about grammar and its place in their writing

SandraS: Digital stories...

SandraS: so putting writing into a multimedia context

SandraS: so much easier with technology

SandraS: comics

SandraS: graphic novels

PaulI: It sure is

LindaJM: very true

SandraS: What do you think about technology's role with your future students?

SandraS: And welcome, Molly!

PaulI: Hi, Molly. I just noticed you were here

LindaJM: I definitely think integration of technology will be a must, and it seems like students are getting introduced to it at an earlier age now

SandraS nods

MollyJ: thanks. I think technology will be more streamlined , like incorporating cell phone texting in blogging, etc

SandraS: Cool!

MollyJ: Hi Paul - I was wondering?

SandraS: And I notice you're a quilter...talk about multimedia...

MollyJ: if that was you

PaulI: Yes, it is.

PaulI: Molly and I are in the same grad class this semester

MollyJ: quilting- definitely tells story - but speaks most strongly to a different generation

SandraS: Cool!

SandraS: But what if you translated quilting into the current generation...how could you do that?

SandraS: Students could come up with their own patterns

SandraS: The Transformer quilt

SandraS: and then tell the stories of the patterns

MollyJ: I have done some volunteer work where kids (young) tell their story by using crayons to create a square of the quilt. when combined together - really cool

SandraS: Oooh, nice.

SandraS: So you've already translated quilting for the current generation!

SandraS: I'm seeing science quilts in your teaching future...

MollyJ: yes, in a way. it is a good introduction, and a nice way to get a piece of them invested in

SandraS: Collaborative!

SandraS: OK, so we have a couple more minutes...any last comments, questions, ideas...

MollyJ: science and quilting????????????? math and quilting, for sure. quilting and storytelling....definitely. Science? We could dye fabric. Yep - I am a fabric freak

LindaJM: lol

SandraS: Biology quilt

SandraS: chemistry quilt

SandraS: environmental science quilt

SandraS: periodic table quilt...

SandraS: OK, I'll stop now.

LindaJM: marine biology quilt

BJB2 smiles

SandraS: ooh --- fish, starfish, octopus, anemone....

LindaJM: there you go

MollyJ: wow, I thought I was scary with my hobby

SandraS: so many possibilities!

SandraS: No way...it's a hobby you can take right into the classroom.

SusanR: read The Quilt Story by Tony Johnston & Tomie de Paola

SandraS nods to Susan

SandraS: Lovely!

PaulI: Thanks for the info, Sandra! See you guys later (I'll see Molly in class on Monday).

SandraS: Thanks for coming tonight and sharing ideas.

BJB2: Glad you could finally make a discussion, Paul.

PaulI: Lol

SandraS: You can join WriteTalk, too

MollyJ: see you Paul!

BJB2: Thanks, Sandy for leading this fab discussion. May I have everyone's permission to quote for the newsletter?

LindaJM: thanks Sandra!

SandraS: You have mine.

PaulI: Yes.

SandraS: Thank you, Linda.

MollyJ: yes

LindaJM: yes

MollyJ: thank you all

BJB2 waves bye and heads for Teachers in Training

SandraS: Have a good evening!