

**Title of Session:** WriteTalk  
**Moderator:** Sandra Shattuck  
**Title of File:** 20100311writetalk  
**Date:** March 11, 2010

Room: WriteTalk Group

**DianneA:** Sandra, another question .. and Bj will recognize the context ....

**SandraS** listens

**BjB** listens to Dianne also

**DianneA:** when you first joined Tapped in what was your aim or expectation of being and operating here?

**SandraS:** Well, when I first joined, I was teaching a graduate course in information technology for an education course in Maryland

**SandraS:** so I wanted online office hours

**SandraS:** and also to explore using a MOO more

**DianneA** nods

**SandraS:** I'd used a MOO at U. of AZ for writing classes...comp.

**DianneA:** how long was it before you were encouraged to offer a Calendar event?

**SandraS:** So I used Tapped In for office hours and to have students get online and experiment

**SandraS:** WriteTalk started as a local NWP site event...and then turned into a national one...

**SandraS:** so it was for the local NWP site for maybe 6 months? starting summer 2003

**BjB** . o O ( NWP=National Writing Project )

**SandraS:** but folks didn't do much

**DianneA** nods

**SandraS:** Thanks, BJ

**SandraS:** and I'd chatted with BJ before Tapped In went to the more hybrid interface

**SandraS:** less MOO-ey

**DianneA:** and how long did it take you to feel comfortable with taking a session as a presenter here at Tapped In?

**SandraS:** BJ, do you remember? I think you asked me if I wanted to do something...?

**SandraS:** not long at all

**SandraS:** I think as long as you teach at Tapped In or teach online somehow

**SandraS:** I also had done faculty development

**SandraS:** in other projects....

**BjB:** I don't remember....but I do remember that we were able to connect on a personal level...which made the interaction so much more valuable

**SandraS:** so maybe the combination of doing online stuff and f2f faculty development made me feel comfortable

**SandraS:** yup!

**SandraS:** I still remember Molly Pitchers.... [Ed note: Historical figure role playing using chat and threaded discussion boards. BJB]

**DianneA** nods about the other and external motivators

**BjB** smiles...that's right!

**SandraS:** wow -- it's been 8 years....

**SandraS:** Are you developing training materials for Tapped In presenters, Dianne?

**DianneA:** Sandra, with the Hub activity over the past 8-10 months we have hoped to get others to the point of 'doing a presentation' here at Tapped In

**SandraS:** ah...

**BjB:** new buzzword now is PLN...personal learning network

**DianneA:** that seems to have been a bit overoptimistic

**DianneA** nods to Bj

**SandraS:** and...how is that going?

**BjB:** but it's the same thing....developing a network of colleagues

**BjB:** we've been working with a group since last June, Sandy

**BjB:** and they're still timid and more or less technophobic

**DianneA:** and I was bringing forward assessment by facing peers, because I have seen that really lift a participant's effort

**SandraS:** hmm...

**SandraS:** right -- if they present to peers first...that would seem to help them practice well

**DianneA:** they seem to be happy to present to their peers at the school what they have been doing, live, but not through the Tapped In chat portal

**SandraS:** how does the technophobia present itself?

**SandraS:** do they all have their own Tapped In offices?

**BjB:** some do and some don't

**SandraS:** I remember with the E-marathon through the National Writing Project, we visited each other's offices on Tapped In and had featured quotations and things to do

**SandraS:** that kind of open house was fun

**BjB:** I've started mentoring one of the women and creating an office was the first thing I had her do

**BjB:** cool idea, Sandy

**DianneA:** and that sort of thing is not dependent on live chatting!

**SandraS:** lag is kicking my butt tonight

**SandraS:** I'm pretty sure I still have the quotation featured in my office

**SandraS:** Raging Sage

**BjB** . o O ( on the stage? )

**SandraS:** If they can decorate their offices and then visit and leave comments...

**SandraS:** LOL

**SandraS:** as in really good coffee roasted on site in Tucson...

**DianneA:** . o O ( it might nearly qualify for a Cage event - blood and gore - which is getting a bit of an airing here in Australia )

**SandraS:** I keep thinking "play" and "creativity" -- any way to offer play with technology sometimes mitigates the technophobia

**SandraS:** not always

**DianneA:** oh oh two references to 'play' today

**SandraS:** I'm preaching to the choir, I know...

**BjB** winks at Dianne

**JeffC** joined the room.

**SandraS:** I think I remember the group you're talking about...

**SandraS** waves to Jeff

**DianneA:** Sandra, BJ was the last one to quote 'play' to me ... I was regretting my ruthless realism in trying to word someone up for a presentation here at Tapped In .. to not have too much to try and do .. to know how long it might take to load a site and have everyone on the same screen, etc

**SandraS:** ah....

**DianneA:** Hi Jeff

**SandraS:** kinda thought BJ might have been the one to mention "play"

**SandraS:** "word someone up" -- this is an Australian English expression, eh?

**DianneA:** I have been known to sink enthusiasm with my ruthless realism, more than once in my life

**DianneA:** and I have still not learned

**SandraS:** What do you do for play?

**BjB:** it's the same as any learning situation, Dianne. We need to model the behaviors. Kind of like scaffolding.

**SandraS:** I've always experienced your TI participation as very helpful...

**DianneA:** 'word someone up' an Australianism ...must be Sandra, do you want to explore that?

**SandraS:** "word someone up" -- sounds like it means "to take someone to task"

**SandraS:** explore what?

**DianneA:** no not as rough as that ..

**SandraS:** ah...

**SandraS:** chide?

**DianneA:** it is about giving them the gen or the instructions, so that they can do it too

**SandraS:** OK, I think I get it

**DianneA:** in Australia it is positive rather than negative

**BjB . o O** ( like fleshing out the outline of an activity )

**DianneA** nods to BJ

**SandraS:** got it

**SandraS:** cool

**SandraS:** I'm learning another language...

**DianneA:** and yes I have just found the reference to it in Australian Colloquialisms

**SandraS:** aha!

**SandraS:** very cool

**DianneA:** but not in Brewer's phrase and fable .. Brewers has the more negative ... to have words with one

**SandraS** nods

**SandraS:** Well, it looks like WriteTalk will take a break this month...That's OK -- I don't know if y'all heard about the shooting at my university...

**JeffC . o O** ( Word Up --American pop song )

**SandraS:** a biology professor killed three colleagues and injured three others -- 12 Feb.

**BjB:** oh, yikes! I do remember reading about that

**SandraS:** classes were canceled for the week after

**JeffC:** I hate to ask you this Sandra... but did you (and others there) write about it?

**SandraS:** it was surreal

**SandraS:** yes...a bit...

**SandraS:** I'm still processing, and writing

**JeffC:** is it on a blog somewhere or do you want to keep it personal?

**JeffC:** consider... how many Columbines will happen in our lifetimes? how will kids cope?

**SandraS** nods

**JeffC:** writing as therapy

**SandraS:** yes...

**BjB** wonders how ANYONE will cope

**JeffC:** group writing... support etc. as well

**SandraS:** the counseling center had the opportunity for folks to come write and draw for a Memorial Book

**JeffC:** online grief counseling

**SandraS:** and the cool thing was that the therapy dogs were there...

**SandraS:** it's sad, but we have a body of knowledge now to deal with these shootings

**JeffC:** gotta take my son to school... he's running sound on "Grease." back in a few

**SandraS:** so folks from Northern Illinois U. and U. of Arkansas

**SandraS:** (shootings in 2008 and 2000)

**SandraS:** both came to us and presented to our faculty and others...

**SandraS** waves to Jeff

**BjB:** shall I schedule WriteTalk for April 8, Sandy?

**SandraS:** Yes -- that would be great, BJ. Thanks!

**SandraS:** I'm going to call it a night!

**BjB** hugs Sandy. Thanks for being here.

**SandraS:** I enjoyed chatting a bit with you both...we need to sit down for coffee!

**SandraS** hugs BJ and Dianne

**SandraS:** Take care!

**BjB:** put in a plug for your sessions to NWP people