

Title of Session: A Better 3Rs For Middle School

Moderator: BJ Berquist and Sheryl McCoy

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Room: 3Rs for Middle School Group

BJB2: we usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions.

TeresaAI: k

BJB2: how about telling us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach.

AnthonyE: thanks its helpful

BJB2: I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania

TeresaAI: I am a grad student and hope to teach at the local university freshmen courses, I currently sub for the local school district

PattyP: I teach Severely Handicap Students in Apple Valley Ca.

BJB2: what do you teach, Patty?

PattyP: Severely Handicap Middle School Students

AnthonyE: minor in history too

BJB2 nods about the middle school students...wondered if this was lifeskills?

PattyP: Yes functional academics and life skills

BJB2: thanks

AnthonyE: I guess we get an A

AnthonyE: for showing up

AnthonyE: What do you think BJ?

BJB2: I'm looking for some information to share with you...

BJB2:

http://www.iste.org/source/orders/isteauthor.cfm?product_code=101ele&id=232205

PattyP: and Mac?

BJB2: then you probably don't have a pop up blocker, Patty

PattyP: Thank you! I am still learning about Mac

BJB2:

http://www.iste.org/source/orders/isteauthor.cfm?product_code=101ele&id=232205

SherylM joined the room.

BJB2: worst case scenario, the url will be included in your transcript and you can check it out later

BJB2: Hi, Sheryl.

BJB2: are you going to rescue us tonight? Jim hasn't logged in

SherylM: Glad I'm not late

SherylM: I am a teacher and live in Kansas

BJB2: Sheryl, why don't you introduce yourself to the group?

BJB2 . o O (like that)

SherylM: have a daughter and a husband; I'm a tchr from Kansas

SherylM: taught middle school science and math

SherylM: I also make content for curricular projects; and I collect fossils;

SherylM: Hey Patty

PattyP: Hello

SherylM waves to Jeff

SherylM: so do you all teach in middle school?

AnthonyE: No I'm elementary

SherylM: Cool; what grade are you tchng now?

PattyP: I do teach middle school special ed

AnthonyE: K-5th

SherylM: Patty, do you teach a range of grades also in your special ed work?

PattyP: Yes I teach 6th - 10th

SherylM: Wow, Anthony are you in a small school?

AnthonyE: No not really I'm located in Houston

AnthonyE: I have 450 students total

AnthonyE: or more like 400 now.

AnthonyE: I teach Art and I'm working on my masters in Instructional Technology

BJB2: whew! finally found what I was looking for: <http://131.125.2.61/~njcms/educationalhotlinks/index.php>

SherylM: Is this a special cluster style for schools; K-5?

AnthonyE: Well I'm new to this and just need the experience

BJB2: you'll find links for most of your disciplines at that url

BJB2 . o O (Jim compiles those lists)

SherylM: looks great!

PattyP: Thank you!

AnthonyE: Gracias

SherylM: So, do you all use the 6 traits in writing

BJB2: can you explain what the 6 traits are, Sheryl?

BJB2 . o O (Sue Roseman has covered them in her K to 3+ Resources discussions)

SherylM: Yes, but I spoke up without the link. U found it the last time I did this

BJB2 chuckles...and goes to find the link

SherylM: Yes, the 6 traits of writing is a way of thinking of writing in a way that is sensible for teachers to show kids how to improve in six basic areas

BJB2: <http://www.nwrel.org/assessment/department.php?d=1>

SherylM: Voice is one the 6 traits; how about looking at this; this place is great

BJB2: look at trait definitions on the left hand menu

SherylM: I have a dream that I could go to the Wee Can Write training for trainers; I wish I lived closer to Portland or had a sponsor.

SherylM: As a teacher, I always appreciated the ability to easily dovetail the use of books, including picture books, to prompt student writing, original writing

SherylM: Anthony are you still with us?

AnthonyE: Yep just absorbing this new info

SherylM: Cool stuff huh? I have been trying to absorb it for more than 25 years, but student achievement in reading and writing improves using this.

AnthonyE: So you guys do this on a daily basis

AnthonyE: Yea I see your point

SherylM: Yes. Some form of it....not all at one time

AnthonyE: you seem pretty intelligent in your field

SherylM: When I coordinated one elem schools writing work with science, we focused on one trait per month

SherylM: we used picture books

SherylM: thnx

SherylM: Using 6 traits really changed the way I teach writing; helped me be more focused, yet creative

BJB2: Anthony, do you integrate writing into your art classes?

AnthonyE: There have been a few times that I do.

AnthonyE: Like for example

SherylM: This is a great opp for integrating with art

BJB2 . o O (I lead a monthly discussion in Tapped In on Literacy and the Arts)

AnthonyE: We were just talking about Paleolithic art

SherylM: Paleolithic period, so cool

SherylM: love to see the French caves

AnthonyE: Yep you got it

AnthonyE: I told the students to give me a short story about cave art an how they thought the artists did their works of art

SherylM: You know you can even use a color to help kids get IDEAS or VOICE; for instance Favorite red things or How do I feel when I see red.

AnthonyE: wow

AnthonyE: youre a pro

SherylM: OK, you have a good start; u can use the 6 trait rubric to score their writing; just pick one trait at first

AnthonyE: I love rubrics

SherylM: I have a file with a cheat sheet for teachers; I could email it to you...all traits on half a page; really cool

AnthonyE: Okay

SherylM:

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/results.asp?WRD=6+Traits+of+Writing&z=3>

SherylM: here is a url for a book about 6 trait that your instructional library people may have

SherylM: I am assuming that you have a district instructional library as big as Houston is. Is that right?

AnthonyE: Okay I check with them.

AnthonyE: Yes we do.

SherylM: Cool, I love librarians. They helped me be who I am

AnthonyE: If not I'll request it

AnthonyE: Really mine don't seem to care

AnthonyE: They avoid work

AnthonyE: chuckles

BJB2: yikes! Librarians are the BEST resource in a school

SherylM: This gal Ruth Culham is one of the originators way back in the last century. lol, I love to say that

AnthonyE: lol

SherylM: Sometimes big school districts like to hire paras instead of librarians, or the librarians have too many kids and not enough help

AnthonyE: So Sheryl I guess you're the Jim we need

SherylM: I am sorry that your experience is not good

AnthonyE: no its great

AnthonyE: I'm loving it

SherylM: Go to the public library in your school area

AnthonyE: I need to do this more often

BJB2: there are two librarians discussions scheduled

SherylM: me too

AnthonyE: lol

AnthonyE: So the 6 traits are?

SherylM: Yes, I think you should go Anthony; they are great

AnthonyE: do you know them off hand

AnthonyE: I will

BJB2: one of the strengths of Tapped In is that even if the discussion leader is not there...each TI member has strengths to contribute to the discussions

AnthonyE: Yep and that would be you and Sheryl M

SherylM: Voice, Ideas, Content, org, sent fluency, word choice,

SherylM: Grammar is Sentence Fluency and organization

AnthonyE: true

SherylM: Word Choice is vocabulary

AnthonyE: okay

SherylM: Voice is expression of self

SherylM: So is Ideas; but Ideas can also be your curricular topic

SherylM: Content is the story you tell

SherylM: Use this transcript to glean these little def; they will help to focus on the basics

AnthonyE: okay

SherylM: Plus I will send you the cheat sheet with instructions for printing it out

AnthonyE: So all of this information is recorded on a transcript

SherylM: You will get the email tomorrow.

AnthonyE: right?

SherylM: Yes, cool huh

AnthonyE: Really cool

SherylM: Really helpful; helps me relax

AnthonyE: I'm going to share this with other teachers that I teach with.

SherylM: I am not trying to take notes; just worry about talk

AnthonyE: So where do you go to retrieve the transcript.

AnthonyE: to print this out

SherylM: Ask if they know about it, it's been around along time, but our state adopted it and we even use it for state assessment rubrics

AnthonyE: O I see

SherylM: MAKE nice with us old ladies!!! LOL

AnthonyE: I sure will you guys are really helpful

SherylM: When you signed up, you gave an email address;; it will be sent there

AnthonyE: Oops.

AnthonyE: Okay

SherylM: I would go back and do that, but I will forward this to you tomorrow.

SherylM: OK

AnthonyE: okay

BJB2: hold on a sec, Anthony

SherylM: Tell me something you are interested in knowing more about?

AnthonyE: remember I'm a newbie

SherylM: been there

SherylM: everybody is great to help

AnthonyE: Honestly right now I'm just overwhelmed with TappedIn

BJB2: you have a yahoo email, Anthony...so you will have to watch your bulk mail folder for your transcript

BJB2 . o O (yahoo tends to put scripts there)

AnthonyE: thanks B

AnthonyE: I look after this

SherylM: yes, but you will get it shortly after we are finished; right BJ

BJB2 nods...a few minutes after you log out the script is sent

AnthonyE: Yea because I'm not done talking to Sheryl M

BJB2 . o O (make sure you press the logout button to let the system know you're gone)

AnthonyE: LOL

BJB2 smiles...not trying to rush you!

AnthonyE: JK you're good.

SherylM: you don't have to go; we are just telling you about what will happen when you logout

AnthonyE: Okay.....

SherylM: So you could use the rubric to assess one trait; ideas is a good one to start with; your stories the kids are writing could be your practice

SherylM: the ones on Paleolithic art

AnthonyE: okay

BJB2: Anthony, it's easy to get on information overload during your first few visits to Tapped in. The transcripts are a big help

AnthonyE: Okay thanks

SherylM: Any ideas or ? that you are thinking about? You can list them and keep them to remember what you wanted to talk about more.

AnthonyE: So by using the six traits how do you structure your lessons. Do you teach one trait per six weeks

SherylM: You can. Some use a month or the length of a unit of study

AnthonyE: ohh

AnthonyE: How do you prefer to teach them

SherylM: I like to stick with a unit that I am working on, but I sometimes use the month; especially if we are doing school-wide 6 trait work.

AnthonyE: So you teach 6th 7th or 8th graders?

SherylM: Sometimes you might only want to teach a trait for one or two days. L

SherylM: I have used this with middle school, but it really works well with kids all the way down to Kindergarten; u simplify the rubric

AnthonyE: I see

BJB2: Our scheduled hour is up. If you would like to continue chatting, you are welcome to do so

BJB2: but I'm out of here ;-)

AnthonyE: This was a neat experience and I thank all of you.

SherylM: Say u pick ideas; you don't even need to know the rubric; just give the kids a 1-5 or 1-4 score on how well they brought out their idea; how original etc

SherylM waves to BJ

SherylM: Have you seen the calendar?

SherylM: Anthony

AnthonyE: yes

SherylM: Did you find some groups that you would like?

AnthonyE: Yea BJ mentioned some and I saw some.

SherylM: You don't have to say anything; when I was new I introduced myself and just listened.

AnthonyE: Well.....I'm a talker

SherylM: I was really nervous. I don't know why;

AnthonyE: I like communication

SherylM: Me too; but I wasn't used to chat; I am better now; except for spelling and grammar; lol

AnthonyE: I have to do this tomorrow again

AnthonyE: lol

AnthonyE: So can I add you as a friend

SherylM: Yes

AnthonyE: Well, Sheryl how do I add you

BJB2: Jeff schedules K-12 student campus tours every Saturday

BJB2: Anthony, click one time on Sheryl M under the here tab to the left of this chat

SherylM: BJ, can you tell him about favorites, I might get him lost.

SherylM: buddies

BJB2: then click on the green i

BJB2: when you do that you will see Sheryl's ID page

AnthonyE: okay I see it.....

BJB2: scroll down to the bottom of the ID page

BJB2: and you'll see a place to make Sheryl your buddy

AnthonyE: okay

AnthonyE: Okay guys well this was an awesome experience and now I have to go to my online grad. courses....I'm so busy

AnthonyE: I will be here tomorrow to join the chat.

AnthonyE: Okay guys well I see you guys later.

SherylM: See you! Nice to meet you

AnthonyE: Same here and thanks again for all the info.....