

Title of Session: Alt/Correctional Ed Forum-What I Want My Words To Do To You

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Guest Speaker: Eliza Licht

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SteveF: Hi Eliza, I am looking forward to hearing your insights into professional development for alternative education and to hearing your ideas on how this professional development can be fostered through video, text and/or online resources.

BJ: Eliza, looks like Steve is going to give you a workout!

ElizaL: oops I was doing something else. Hi Steve I'll try

SteveF: Bj, I've been really busy with my student centered projects, My students and I are creating up a storm with several new websites and inventions as well as an exciting neighborhood memoir writing and photo collaboration project. Probably this latter project would be a neat one for this discussion.

BJ: wow, Steve...sounds fantastic!

BJ: Steve, you need to join the Digital Storytelling group...The Art of Storytelling

BJ: Julie Springer from NGA is involved with the project

SteveF: I am involved in a new storytelling venture with my new neighborhood photography and memoir project. Given our topic tonight digital storytelling suggests an excellent cyberspace communications outlet and an exciting arena for professional development for alternative school educators and those involved in juvenile justice work with delinquents.

BJ: Steve, you also might want to participate in the Arts in Corrections group. Eliza is one of the members...

BJ: we're working to put together a program of arts opportunities that are being used in correctional/alternative ed situations...an arts advocacy program

ElizaL: That sounds great Steve, I bet you would be interested in a new sight we are launching called Borders. There is a preview up on our site now.

BJ: Welcome to the discussion, Steve, Anne and Karen!

AnneMH: Happy to be here!

BJ: Before we begin, a reminder that you can click on the actions drop down menu in the top right of your chat window to detach your chat window

KarenAW: First time at branching out within the community

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

BJ: As always, let's start with introductions. Eliza is our guest speaker and will introduce herself after you all do.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and the leader of the Arts and Corrections group

BJ: o O (facilitator, might be a better term)

MichelleT joined the room.

AnneMH: I am a graduate student in 7-12 language arts and have taught adult basic ed to offenders and probably will do so again.

BJ: Steve? Karen?

KarenAW: My name is Karen Williams, a grad student at the University of Minnesota. My discipline is Art Education

SteveF: It's particularly wonderful to be involved in a chat with the producer of a show that is a quintessential media presentation of multiple perspectives and a wonderful demonstration of how instructors and facilitators have to approach alternative education

BJ: Hi, Michelle. Welcome. We're just doing introductions

MichelleT: I'm a literacy coach

MichelleT: I work for Milw. Public Schools

AnneMH: (I'm at the Univ. of Dayton)

BJ hands the virtual floor over to Eliza

ElizaL: Thanks Steve..where/what do you teach?

ElizaL: First, I want to start with a quick question. Does anyone want me to go over what P.O.V. is?

SteveF: I have had experience as the leader of a writers' group workshop at Rikers and also worked on a service learning preservation project with juvenile offenders in PA. many of the participants had been involved in the destruction of property they later restored. It was a mind enhancing, meaningful beyond words experience!!

BJ: I would appreciate it, Liza.

AnneMH: ditto

MichelleT: me too

KarenAW: go ahead

ElizaL: P.O.V. (a cinema term for "point of view") is an annual curated collection of 12-16 of the best independently produced contemporary non-fiction films. We have been broadcast on PBS since 1988. The reason I am here tonight is that we also offer these films to thousands of community groups and educators free-of-charge in order to promote civic engagement and public dialogue on the contemporary social issues presented in our films. More than a broadcaster, P.O.V. is a pioneer in promoting civic engagement and public dialogue on contemporary social issues through innovative uses of media and community engagement strategies.

SteveF: I'd love to hear you articulate your vision!

ElizaL: Sorry this is a little wordy...

KarenAW: no, this is good

ElizaL: In addition to these films we also work with educators and consultants to produce discussion guides and lesson plans to help educators and community organizers use our films. These companion materials are available FREE online

SteveF: Not at all engagement is the key word here and for our topic. . Let us connect!!

ElizaL: Tonight I am here to talk about our most recent broadcast "What I Want My Words To Do to You"

BJ wonders if everyone has seen the program?

MichelleT: I haven't

ElizaL: but I think that many of you will find other films useful as well...

KarenAW: didn't get to but read the information online

BJ . o O (or the webpage of resources)

AnneMH: yes and I loved it

KarenAW: I hear it was wonderful

BJ: I saw it, too...very powerful

ElizaL: Steve have you seen it?

MichelleT: I'd like to see it

SteveF: Yes, I have and I wonder whether beyond online resources and curriculum print materials, you have other ideas about the application of this piece to our topic, Eliza or perhaps someone else, Anne, Karen or Michelle does??

BJ: Michelle, the topic is perfect for a literacy coach!

ElizaL: Okay for those of you who don't know ..The film focuses on a writing group led by playwright and activist Eve Ensler (The Vagina Monologues) at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Westchester, NY. This film allows viewers to see past the crime to the person, to see "the woman" and not just "the mistake."

ElizaL: Before I move you to the web page does anyone have any pressing questions about P.O.V.?

KarenAW: no, I'm fine

MichelleT: no

ElizaL: <http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/whatiwant/index.html>

ElizaL: There is the web site has everyone been there before?

BJ: click on the hyperlink to open a new window

AnneMH: yes

KarenAW: yes, so have I

SteveF: Steve: Do you think that using this approach as a model, albeit not with a playwright of Ensler stature but with an experienced teacher educator in the teaching of writing or a photographer gifted in the craft of portraiture would be an effective professional development course or experience? Would Ensler participate in an online or in person or video PD experience?

ElizaL: Steve , yes to the first question

ElizaL: Did everyone find the discussion guide?

BJ nods

MichelleT: I looked briefly at the website it appears to be outstanding I like the lesson plan

ElizaL: Glad to hear it.... I'll quickly show you how to get to the guide

ElizaL: http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/whatiwant/resources_guide.html

ElizaL: that is the link and it's easier...that way. Then you can either opt to fill out the form and we will add you to our mailing list or just hit download the guide

SteveF: Most important is this guide an open document or at least are there online opportunities for teachers and participants to add their perspectives and responses to this powerful POV?

ElizaL: P.O.V. works with nationally recognized media educator Dr. Faith Rogow to develop facilitation guides for our films to help organizers carry out substantive discussion, while being cognizant of the sensitivities around challenging content. The guides contain advice on leading discussion; a listing of an array of possible views on the subject with suggestions for handling extreme views respectfully, cogently, and as a springboard for further discussion; background information on the issue to help in guiding discussion; suggestions for areas of dialogue/evocative questions; and a listing of additional resources, among other elements.

GailP joined the room.

ElizaL: Steve what do you mean by "open" document?

BJ: Hi, Gail. Welcome to the discussion.

GailP: Thanks - just stopped in for a bit

ElizaL: But yes..we encourage viewer feedback especially on line

ElizaL: There are a number of ways to “talk back”

SteveF: Can and do you desire to compile reactions and discussions stimulated by the guide as a means to expanding, enhancing and field-testing the approaches generated?

ElizaL: there is the online discussion board

<http://boards.pbs.org/servlet/BoardView?boardid=915058065>

ElizaL: yes, yes, and yes...

ElizaL: we want all the feedback and reactions

ElizaL: There is also something called a the talking back tapestry

ElizaL: that you can access from the homepage..

SteveF: What is the definition of that term in multimedia PBS parlance?

ElizaL: we encourage people to send in video responses or even phone messages to be included on this feature

ElizaL: what term?

SteveF: “talking back tapestry” what a great metaphor for this approach to alternative education pd!!

AnneMH: Eliza, I think this group is basically “the choir”; I am curious as to how the general public perceived “what my words....”

ElizaL: Anne, Gail, Karen, BJ, Steve have you used video in any of your classes

AnneMH: for viewing?

ElizaL: yes

AnneMH: oh yes, a lot

KarenAW: no not teaching right now

MichelleT: no but I will

ElizaL: the majority of people loved the film

KarenAW: just finished a course on including video, film and media

AnneMH: that’s great, it seems that the public is anti-crime and anti-criminal

ElizaL: it is interesting to read the discussion boards and hear how different people reacted

GailP: I’m not teaching now, but I saw the film and was very moved!

SteveF: I have used video to say a Christmas card of greetings to US soldiers who were originally Kennedy High school students and I have had wonderful POV style snapshot oral history views of family members and their family exhibits

ElizaL: it is a very powerful film...all of the screenings I attended were incredibly moving

AnneMH: Eva is amazing...I thought she was like a therapist

AnneMH: which one normally can’t do as a teacher of course

ElizaL: I know..

AnneMH: can you elaborate?

GailP: I have had some personal family experiences that have convinced me that writing can be extremely therapeutic - with students it is important to convince them that they can take a chance and be honest.

SteveF: Eve is a charismatic dramatist, dramaturge, actress and like Anne Deweare Smith a reenactor a well

ElizaL: a few people who screened the film wished there was a professional available

AnneMH: professional what?

MichelleT: why

ElizaL: professional therapist

AnneMH: oh u mean at the viewing

AnneMH: right

ElizaL: we have some tips for teachers/facilitators in the guide but I always

ElizaL: make sure folks have seen the film ahead of time

AnneMH: I used to hesitate to show depressing/issue-provoking films to my incarcerated women, but they always said “we can take it”

AnneMH: but I’d warn ahead of time

ElizaL: and they can

SteveF: I think the essence of the film is its lack of a professional . These participants have had too much exposure to the so-called “trained professionals.” They need the liberation of writing and speaking to a community of listeners through an artistic product!!

ElizaL: we have found that these films can be incredibly helpful tools to discuss difficult issues

ElizaL: it gives folks a way “in”

AnneMH: contrariwise, I found Eva quite professional

AnneMH: I wish there was a discipline of writing therapy like there is art therapy

SteveF: I meant professional as a trained psychotherapist or a credentialed social worker, or psychologist

AnneMH: point taken

BJ: Anne, I think the program lays the groundwork for writing as therapy

BJ . o O (and so does the discussion guide)

SteveF: Writing is essential a therapy

ElizaL: If any of you are interested in using this film in your classes...just fill out an application at http://www.pov.org/events/event_app03.html

AnneMH: but again there are issues as to what a k-12 teacher can legally do

AnneMH: what is the application for exactly please?

BJ: do you recommend this film for K-12, Liza?

ElizaL: to get a copy of the film

AnneMH: great

ElizaL: High School...not any younger

BJ nods. Thanks

AnneMH: maybe even excerpts?

ElizaL: People have shown it to middle schoolers

ElizaL: yes, I think excerpt could be really helpful

BJ: Anne, I think one of the most moving parts of the film were when the actresses were reading the stories and we saw the author’s faces

AnneMH: I agree

GailP: I would think it would take a lot of “preparation” and background to use it with middle school students - but selected excerpts would work well!

ElizaL: Yes, I think in the lesson plan there are

ElizaL: parts she suggests

SteveF: I would want to collaborate with you and provide authentic feedback from my Bronx high school students . it would inspire a tone and approach for our ongoing neighborhood photo and memoir project. I believe with Lionel trilling that at various ages various insights and perspectives can be taken from media. Perhaps a mature 8th grader would appreciate aspects of its format and style mediated by an adult leader/facilitator.

ElizaL: Next year we are thinking of putting clips on line to go along with the lesson plans

ElizaL: would that be helpful to any of you?

AnneMH: quite possibly

ElizaL: WE are also trying to get find the clips

SteveF: I think that would provide concerned educators with a feel for the visual texture and suitability (if these issues are there) of the material

KarenAW: oh yes clips would be wonderful

ElizaL: Steve, that sounds really interesting. I am actually trying to find a teacher in new York to participate in a “global classroom” exercise on the environment

ElizaL: I would like to talk to you about that later

ElizaL: I am so glad to be here and talking to all of you!!

AnneMH: So great of you to be here!

BJ smiles happily. I love to see the Tapped In community in action!

MichelleT: thank you

ElizaL: Does anyone have any more questions?

KarenAW: my first time at this and it’s everything and more than I could have hoped for

ElizaL: I want you to know you can all leave me messages here at tapped in or email me at elicht@pov.org

KarenAW: thank you

ElizaL: Aww..shucks..same here.

AnneMH: the film really confirmed what I found in incarcerated persons--the lack of a veneer--no social b.s.

ElizaL: yes

MichelleT: I’ve learned a lot

ElizaL: Anne do you think your students would gain anything from seeing this film

AnneMH: what the guide talked about as women who were examining their lives....in prison you have a lot of time for that

GailP: Thanks for letting me “listen in” - in my cubicle job in the Library of Congress, I miss the connections with educators! And this film was special to me and this discussion has given me a lot of insight!

AnneMH: oh yes

AnneMH: hope, among other things

SteveF: The environment is one of my key arenas . I have done extensive work with Fluid Arts on these issues and have had ongoing international collaborations with Estonia, Brazil, Japan, etc .

ElizaL: good

AnneMH: that they can make it through a long sentence without going nuts, for example

ElizaL: Steve; check out the borders preview on our homepage www.pbs.org/pov/ and email me

BJ hopes to hear more about the global environmental project

BJ: I'd like to thank you all for participating in this discussion

ElizaL: I would love to tell you all about the global environment project--it is all online!!

AnneMH: Thank you.

BJ: and a special thanks to Eliza for being our guest

MichelleT: you're welcome

GailP: You did a great job as usual, BJ.

ElizaL: Thanks everyone

BJ: thanks, Gail

KarenAW: thank you for coming and to everyone else I'm happy to meet to all

SteveF: I'll check it out and be in touch, Eliza. This was super, BJ, , Thanks so much. . .

MichelleT: goodnight

ElizaL: Thank you BJ for setting this up

KarenAW: yes thank you BJ

BJ: Please consider joining the Arts in Corrections group