

Title of Session: AAMU Writing Project: WriteTalk

Moderator: Sandra Shattuck

Title of File: 20031113aamuwt

Date: November 13, 2003

Room: After School Online

SandraS: BJ, I was trying to upload your .doc to the files here, but I haven't got those privileges.

SandraS: Can you do that?

SandraS: Kathy and Irma, if you want to see BJ's piece we're discussing, I'm just trying to see if BJ can upload it here.

KathyHoa: thanks Sandy

SandraS: Otherwise, you can go to the AAMU Writing Project office and download the file.

IrmaC: ok

SandraS: Let's see what BJ says...

KathyHoa: ok let me try to do that real quick

SandraS: OK, Kathy

SandraS: Hello, Joan. Welcome.

KristiG joined the room.

SandraS: Hello, Kristi. Welcome.

KristiG: thanks, just checking things out...

KristiG: What is WriteTalk?

SandraS: Kristi, WriteTalk is a new group on Tapped In.

JoanGo: Hi I don't know what you are talking about, but I wanted to use the chat room.

SandraS: We've met once before.

SandraS: Joan, this room is for group discussions.

SandraS: You're welcome to stay here and participate.

SandraS: Every room on Tapped In can be chat enabled.

KathyHoa: Sandy, how do I get to the AAMU Writing Project office?

BJ: Let me see if I can download the composition here

JoanGo: about what?

SandraS: All right!

KathyHoa: ok

SandraS: BJ may be able to have the file here...which would be easier.

SandraS: So WriteTalk is a writing support group.

SandraS: The idea is to provide peer input on professional writing we do.

SandraS: We often do a lot of professional writing

SandraS: lesson plans

SandraS: evaluations

SandraS: grant applications

SandraS: dissertation proposals

SandraS: but we rarely seek peer review for that writing

SandraS: WriteTalk gives us peer input on any writing we'd like reviewed

SandraS: so far we've looked at Jeff Cooper's piece on education MUVE's like Tapped In

SandraS: and this evening, we'll look at a piece by BJ

SandraS: the piece that will be reviewed is posted in the AAMU Writing Project office

SandraS: thanks for stopping by Kristi

BJ: I've downloaded the file and featured it

SandraS: yeah!!!

BJ: so, if you click on WELCOME on the blue menu, you'll reload your welcome page

BJ: and you should see the six degrees article

SandraS: it's there

BJ: o O (I hope I downloaded the right article)

SandraS: i think so, BJ

BJ: o O (it's under featured items/files)

SandraS: does everyone have the article now?

KathyHoa: yes thank you BJ

SandraS: it's about one page long, so it won't take long to scan

IrmaC: I don't

SandraS: can you find the link, Irma?

IrmaC: where?

BJ: Irma, did you click on WELCOME on the blue menu to reload your welcome page?

BJ: o O (blue menu is on the left of the page above this chat window)

IrmaC: not yet

BJ: then scroll down on the page to featured items

SandraS: you'll need to do that in order to see the link

IrmaC: I am here what is next

BJ: did you scroll down to featured items?

IrmaC: yes

BJ: at the bottom of featured items is FILES

SandraS: click on the link that says "six degrees of separation.doc"

SandraS: file will download to your computer and you can open it with microsoft word

SandraS: were you able to download it, Irma?

IrmaC: I don't see that. It says archived files and monthly tapped in

KathyHoa: if you scroll down a little more...it is under files

BJ: below that, Irma...unless you didn't update

IrmaC: I try to look for it

IrmaC: It is not here I am sorry I am taking your time

SandraS: That's ok Irma

SandraS: no problem

SandraS: let's try one more thing

SandraS: go up to the globe image on the left of the page

IrmaC: Thanks I found it

SandraS: and then click on the Welcome link right below the globe

SandraS: all right!

SandraS: ok, so let's dig in.

SandraS: How about if we introduce ourselves first?

SandraS: BJ, I'm jumping in....

IrmaC: It is opening

SandraS applauds Irma

BJ: good idea, Sandy...then I can give a little background on why this article was written

SandraS: ok, excellent

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

SandraS: I'll start....I teach English at Alabama A&M University

SandraS: Kathy, would you like to introduce yourself?

KathyHoa: I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston

SandraS: Irma, would you like to introduce yourself?

IrmaC: I am a preservice teacher at the University of Houston

SandraS: excellent.

SandraS: Bj has generously offered her writing for this evening.

SandraS: So she will start by telling us about the piece...

BJ: I recently joined an online workshop ...

SandraS listens carefully

BJ: one of the first assignments of the workshop was to write the six degrees story

BJ: we were given a person in the workshop and had to make the connection to them

BJ . o O (without talking directly to that person)

SandraS: BJ, maybe you can explain the six degrees of separation theory or idea?

BJ: six degrees of separation theory is that we are all connected...

BJ: and usually you can make that connection in 6 steps...

BJ: for example...

BJ: my uncle once lived next door to a person who was a salesman..

BJ: the salesman came across a set of velvet paintings and sold them to my uncle

BJ: my uncle gave me a painting as a gift...

BJ: turns out the painting was formerly owned by Elvis

KathyHoa: wow

BJ: so, by these degrees...I met Elvis

SandraS: so you're connected to the salesman and to Elvis

BJ . o O (that wasn't 6 degrees, but you get the idea)

BJ: right

IrmaC: incredible!

SandraS: and the salesman is also connected to Elvis

BJ Nods

BJ: It's a fun activity

SandraS: ok, so a few questions about the assignment

SandraS: did everyone in the workshop have to do the assignment?

BJ: yes, each participant was matched with another participant

SandraS: and then what were the pairs asked to do?

KathyHoa: so you were given the six degrees of separation?

BJ: we had to make up the six degrees, Kathy

BJ: all the pairs were asked to do the same thing

BJ: and each story was different!

KathyHoa: I mean like the Community Service and Volunteering, Sweet Laughter and the Joy of Living...

KathyHoa: and you had to find stories that went with it?

BJ: the participants were located all over the world...and we had to find the connections

SandraS: ah,,, I keep thinking face-to-face interchange and forget that you're talking about an online workshop

BJ: maybe a grandfather had been to Italy

BJ: Yes...all online

SandraS: was your partner Anita Pos? or did you and your partner have to find ways to link to Anita Pos?

SandraS: the person mentioned in number 6

BJ: My partner was Anita

SandraS: ok, so you had to find ways to link everyone in the workshop to Anita?

BJ: no, I just had to find a way for me to be linked to Anita

SandraS: got it

SandraS: so, I'm assuming that since this was the first assignment, it's something you've already gotten feedback on?

BJ: o O (Anita is in the Netherlands, btw)

SandraS: ah...

SandraS: I love technology!

SandraS: seems as if the 6 degrees of separation exercise is ideally suited for online collaboration

BJ: not really much feedback. I'm curious to see if it makes sense if you don't know any of the people involved

SandraS: I was confused by the terms "separation" and "challenge"

SandraS: not sure if they were interchangeable

SandraS: for instance, in #4 -- challenge is also a link

SandraS: I can understand the connections between people without knowing the people

KathyHoa: I understand them also

BJ: yes, you are right...that should be separation instead of challenge

SandraS: and I knew about six degrees of separation, but i still wasn't entirely sure how everybody was linking up

SandraS: having the context (online workshop) helps to understand better

SandraS: but I'm also curious...if this is a story, did you think about interweaving the 6 separations

IrmaC: you are right Sandra

SandraS: or did you always want the piece divided up to highlight separations

KathyHoa: I was curious about that also

BJ: I needed to divide it up to help me see the six degrees

SandraS: ok - so what are you wanting to do with this piece?

SandraS: I like your divisions

BJ: I'd like to use it as an example of how we are all connected...

SandraS: and who would read this?

BJ: the workshop is about communities of practice...

BJ: which can include f2f as well as only online communication

BJ: but, no matter how we communicate, we are all connected in some way

KathyHoa: online is also a great way to show that no matter where you live there still may be some connection

BJ: the audience would be people new to an environment

BJ: entering a new environment can be very intimidating for many people

IrmaC: Like me

BJ: yes, Kathy

BJ nods to Irma...and me!

SandraS: so the piece needs to be short enough... maybe

SandraS: and you'd need some kind of intro. about the workshop

SandraS: why you wrote the piece

SandraS: some explanation of the six degrees theory

BJ: if we learn to look for our connections instead of worrying about our differences, it's easier to build rapport with participants

SandraS: ah....

SandraS: keep that line

KathyHoa: yes

KathyHoa: i like that =)

SandraS: me too

BJ blushes. Thanks

IrmaC: Good idea

SandraS: I wonder if you could rename it....Six Degrees of Connection....

IrmaC: Fantastic

SandraS: I actually keep wanting you to expand the piece

SandraS bows to Irma

SandraS: but if you're using the piece to help people to new environments, you may want to keep it short

IrmaC: yes so people won't be lost

SandraS: there's a lot of passion in the piece...clear you've built rapport and friendships

SandraS: but in order to understand how phenomenal that kind of connecting is, I'd need more information...without disclosing names you don't want to disclose

SandraS: who's in what country

SandraS: it's amazing how much you know about people you've never met

IrmaC: It helped me understand about far away communities

SandraS: cool!

SandraS: I like the order of your categories

SandraS: and also wonder if you had a strategy for putting them in that order

SandraS: I also wanted more discussion of the initial quotation

SandraS: how did it touch your heart?

IrmaC: The order makes sense

SandraS: in what context did Ian say it?

SandraS: how do you interpret that quotation...

SandraS: how did you connect to artists, musicians, poets

SandraS: you see how I keep wanting you to expand

SandraS: when the purpose of your piece probably goes against any kind of expansion...

SandraS: hope that makes sense

IrmaC: It touch your heart by own experience

SandraS: I agree, Irma...

SandraS: We're pretty much out of time.

SandraS: Last words go to the writer.

SandraS: Any questions of your readers?

SandraS: ok, then...good evening to everyone.

SandraS: And many thanks, again.

BJ: thanks, Kathy and Irma and Sandy for helping me with the article

SandraS: Thanks BJ for sharing your work!

KathyHoa: Thank you BJ for sharing your piece with us!

SandraS: Good night, all!

IrmaC: good night

BJ: we'll look for something from you one of these months!

SandraS left the room.

BJ waves goodnight