

Title of Session: AAMU WriteTalk

Moderator: Sandra Shattuck

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Room: After School Online

BJ joined the room.

SandraS: BJ, do you want to do the usual intro?

BJ: let's wait a sec, Sandy

SandraS: keydoke

BJ . o O (people are running late this week)

SandraS: we don't have any writing up for review

SandraS: so I thought we'd talk about what might work for people

MerileneM is very excited to learn about sandy

TereP joined the room.

SandraS is totally psyched about what Merilene is doing

MerileneM : what a wonderful person you are, Sandy. I am glad to meet you

BJ: Hi, Tere.

SandraS: oh, thank you!!!! You, too!!!

MerileneM : hi, Tere

TereP: Hi BJ

BJ: I'll make a short announcement, Sandy

SandraS: ok

TereP: hi, **MerileneM**

BJ: I did post a reminder to the group room, Sandy, but only thought to do it this afternoon

SandraS: Thanks so much BJ. Your memory is way ahead of mine.

BJ . o O (it would help me if you could do that a few days before your discussions)

SandraS: Do you mean to the AAMU Writing Project room

SandraS: or the Tapped In reception or ASO room?

SandraS: I'm happy to do that

BJ: the project room discussion board

SandraS: ok -- I'll do that for sure

MerileneM will brb -- has to find a good link to share

MichelleT joined the room.

SandraS: hi Michelle

MichelleT: waves

TereP: hi

MerileneM : hello, Michelle

AndrewA joined the room.

MichelleT: hi everyone

BJ: good job, Andrew

SandraS: hi, Andrew

MerileneM : hello, Andrew

AndrewA: hello

TereP: hi Andrew

BJ: OK, Sandy...now we can get the show on the road!

SandraS: way cool

MichelleT: hi Andrew

BJ: welcome, everyone, to the AAMU WriteTalk discussion

BJ: Sandy Shattuck is the discussion leader

AndrewA: ok

BJ: we usually start all the discussions with introductions

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

MerileneM : write, educator, telecommunicator. I run a company called telepoetics

SandraS: a wonderful way to start! I teach English/literature at Alabama A&M univ. and

am help desk volunteer here occasionally

MichelleT: I am a literacy coach and teacher in Wisconsin and I work the help desk

AndrewA: I am univ student, univ Houston, 8-12 math

TereP: I'm a third grade teacher in Tucson

SandraS: Excellent...we've got a nice mix of disciplines

SandraS: Let me give you a quick intro. to the Writing Project

SandraS: The National Writing Project has been around since 1973

SandraS: federally funded

SandraS: <http://www.writingproject.org>

SandraS: and is believes that writing can help us learn in all subjects

SandraS: uses a model of teachers teaching other teachers

SandraS: mainly through summer institutes

SandraS: 175 sites across the nation

SandraS: believes that teachers teach writing better if they learn to write better

SandraS: Alabama A&M is one of the 175 sites

SandraS: and I went through the summer institute last summer

TereP: A&M?

SandraS: Agricultural and Mechanical

SandraS: it's an historically Black university

MichelleT: sounds great

AndrewA: how long institute program

SandraS: our program has been going for about 9 years

MichelleT: what is the cost?

SandraS: no cost for participants

SandraS: K-12 teachers typically get a stipend to attend the summer institute

SandraS: we went for four weeks

AndrewA: but how much time you spend on this last summer?

SandraS: 4 weeks

SandraS: M-F

SandraS: 9-2

MichelleT: was it intensive

SandraS: we worked as a whole group and also in small groups

SandraS: yes

SandraS: shared teaching ideas

SandraS: shared writing

SandraS: put together an anthology

MerileneM : wow!

SandraS: studied theory/practice

SandraS: it's a wonderful way of building community

SandraS: ideally there are folks from all subjects

AndrewA: theory of what???

SandraS: theory of teaching writing

MichelleT: are the teachers from all over the country?

AndrewA: ok

SandraS: usually the teachers are from the surrounding area

SandraS: if you want to find out if a university near you hosts

SandraS: a writing project site

SandraS: you can find all sites from the national website

SandraS: at <http://www.writingproject.org>

AndrewA: this theory formalized in notebook? book? how/

MerileneM : have the institutes ever been digitally connected

SandraS: the teaching of writing is often taught at college level as composition/rhetoric studies

SandraS: yes

SandraS: there's an online component through the National Writing project

MerileneM : sandy, this is awesome

SandraS: the NWP started at Berkeley in 1973

SandraS: so the Berkeley chapter is behind the educational bloggers network

SandraS: they seem to be very active

SandraS: there's a NY site linked to Tapped In that has a dynamic online newsletter

TereP: I thought Lucy Calkins started the project?

MerileneM : incredible!

AndrewA: what is major weakness of urban high school writer?

SandraS: the NWP, Tere?

TereP: no?

SandraS: I'm not sure who began the first project....

SandraS: but we also meet face-to-face for a writing group here in Huntsville

MerileneM : good question, Andrew

SandraS: and I thought that Tapped In would be a great place to have an online writing support group

SandraS: for our professional writing

SandraS: so far, BJ and Jeff C have offered their writing for critique

SandraS: but we don't have any writing to review for this evening.

SandraS: so I thought we could talk about your ideas

MerileneM . o O (bjb is courageous)

SandraS: do you find yourself needing peer input on any of your writing?

SandraS: I've been thinking specifically of professional writing

SandraS: annual reports, lesson plans, evaluations,

SandraS: and that we have little opportunity to discuss and share that writing with peers

MerileneM : yes, that is so true

MichelleT: I usually ask peers at work to look over my work

SandraS: what kind of work do you usually have your work peers review?

MichelleT: usually informational writing

SandraS: what kind of audience?

MichelleT: I am responsible for staff development and meetings at my school

SandraS listens

AndrewA: Just 2 weeks gp two different professors advised students to be careful with their connective sentences from one paragraph to another. Does this suggest to you a common weakness in writing

SandraS: absolutely

MichelleT: teachers at my school and I do presentations at conferences

SandraS: transitions are always pesky

SandraS: yes, Michelle, that's exactly the kind of writing I was thinking of

MichelleT: makes sense

SandraS: do you find that your peers give you the kind of feedback you need?

MichelleT: not always

TereP: it's hard to give feedback

SandraS: yes, absolutely

MerileneM : why, Tere

SandraS: one of my theories is that the better I can teach my students to read each other's work

MichelleT: Sometime I want them to be critical

SandraS: the better those students will write

AndrewA: I usually want to argue with my peers about their logic.

TereP: I used t read my husbands' papers for grad school

SandraS: I think arguing about logic is great exercise

TereP: and found it hard to explain why I would change something

SandraS: I think most of us can read well and we often have those moments

SandraS: of just knowing something doesn't work

SandraS: but we're unsure of the reason

MerileneM : I find when writing grants, business plans, & the like, feedback is usually what Andrew offers rather than an assessment of the documents purposefulness

MichelleT: I agree

SandraS: and to me, often the kind of writing Merilene refers to is the kind that has the most hanging on it

SandraS: that is, you're trying to fund a project

MerileneM : so true

SandraS: feedback is so critical there

SandraS: and sometimes you don't get the feedback until the grant is rejected

SandraS: and the reviewers may tell you why

MichelleT: I writing grants as a group is helpful

SandraS: I agree, Michelle

MerileneM : yes, & it is not always spelled out then either -- the reason for rejection

SandraS: absolutely, Merilene

TereP: are there a lot of guidelines to writing grants?

SandraS: can be very frustrating

SandraS: yes...Tere

TereP: then, why is it so hard?

SandraS: ah....

MerileneM agrees with Michelle

SandraS: lots of competition

TereP: I see

SandraS: and some grantwriters don't pay attention to the guidelines

SandraS: and if you pay attention to the guidelines, you've still got to make the prose move

SandraS: get the reader's attention

SandraS: move them

AndrewA: I find that my grammar skill limits the way I present my writing, i.e., I tailor my writing to fit what I know is correct even though I'm aware of likely better presentations. How to fix this? Memorize APA?

SandraS: ack....memorize APA...very painful

MerileneM laughs

SandraS: could you give an example, Andrew?

MichelleT: laughs

AndrewA: so... what do I do

SandraS: well, an example of what you just described would help me better understand

SandraS: some aspects of academic writing change as style changes

SandraS: used to be a no-no to use first person in academic writing

SandraS: not any more

AndrewA: Example is not specific, but, always a complex, say 4 or 5 ideas, using dashes or semicolons

SandraS: ah....

SandraS: pesky things, those dashes --- and semicolons; and whatnot

MerileneM : sometimes, Andrew, what you can do is draft in the complex and then re-write in the informal

MichelleT: I agree with Andrew

SandraS: that's a great idea, Merilene

TereP: what a great idea!

SandraS: a kind of code-switching or translating of your own work

SandraS: write what feels best first

SandraS: then translate

SandraS: is that kinda what you meant, Merilene?

MerileneM : it has helped me. first, in the complex, to get the grant guidelines answered and then in the informal to add what sandy suggested, the flow, the moving prose

AndrewA: But why the informal. The wanted result is a formal writing

MerileneM : yes, Sandy

MerileneM : oh, I'm sorry, Andrew

SandraS is glad she understood Merilene

MichelleT: to make sure all your ideas are captured

TereP: sounds very good

MerileneM : anything you want to do is alright with me. you have my confidence

SandraS: Both BJ and Jeff posted their writing to the AAMU Writing Project office

SandraS: and anyone could download the piece two weeks before the meeting

SandraS: or people just attended the session and then found the writing up for review

SandraS: and read it on the spot

TereP: AAMU?

SandraS: I also think that people should be able to use a Tapped In writing group

MichelleT: Does the writer inform the group who the audience is?

SandraS: Alabama A&M University = AAMU

TereP: thanks

SandraS: right, Michelle

SandraS: ideally, there would be a kind of cover letter

AndrewA: ok ok. I really need help with this. I prefer to write in 3rd person. But, I often, too often, I begin with The writer (me) observed. or, It is the writer's opinion....

Fix this. Somebody

MerileneM : & you have a group here already on tapped in , right, sandy

SandraS: we've got a model in the AAMU Writing Project office

SandraS: right,

BJ: does everyone know how to join a group in Tapped In?

MerileneM : how, bj?

SandraS nods to BJ's question

TereP: I don't

BJ: click on the SEARCH tab

BJ: then click on GROUPS

BJ: enter aamu writing

TereP: thanks

MerileneM : Sandra, I love the idea

MichelleT: thank you

SandraS: great!

MerileneM : how often does the group meet?

BJ: if you join the group you'll get reminders of these monthly meetings, right, Sandy?

SandraS: yup, BJ

SandraS: at least from now on....

MerileneM . o O (bj's crystal ball is always on)

BJ . o O (the next meeting is January 8)

SandraS shakes her head sheepishly

SandraS: we meet once a month

SandraS: the second Thursday of the month

MerileneM : thanks, Sandra

AndrewA: I'll be back

SandraS: 8-9pm central

SandraS: NOW.....does anyone want to share some writing for next time?

SandraS: I also think that we can use the group

MerileneM . o O (I wonder if Andrew might share an example)

SandraS: to talk about writing

MichelleT: Sandra I will review the website you told us about

SandraS . o O (Merilene has a good idea....)

SandraS: great, Michelle

SandraS: the reason I call the group WriteTalk
SandraS: is because I think talking about writing
SandraS: is often as helpful as the actual writing
SandraS: so if you have an idea about a piece of writing you'd like to do
SandraS: and you're at the thinking/drafting stage
AndrewA: I've got an example but I type so d___ slow I lose the flow of thought with you guys
SandraS: you could present those ideas and talk them out
SandraS: Andrew, you can post the writing
SandraS: to the group office
SandraS: then everyone can download it
SandraS: and read it before our next meeting
SandraS: then folks would come prepared with questions for you
AndrewA: how. It's a word.doc
SandraS: excellent
SandraS: you
SandraS: would just join the group
SandraS: the way BJ mentioned earlier
SandraS: then go to the AAMU Writing Project office
SandraS: click on Files
SandraS: click on Upload
SandraS: and upload the .doc file from your computer
AndrewA: But, you see, I was looking at what I was typing and missed the part about joining group
MerileneM is going to join now, too, so as to read Andrew's post
SandraS: not to worry, Andrew
SandraS: yeah!!!
BJ: Andrew, the info will be in your transcript
AndrewA: oh yeah. duh
SandraS: so you can join any time
SandraS: but Andrew, we've corralled you into a peer review...
MerileneM went to search in upper window, typed in aamu writing
SandraS: are you willing to share your writing for the next Write Talk session?
AndrewA: who you talkin to
SandraS: you would need to post your document by 25 Dec. -- about 2 weeks before Jan. 8, so that others would have time to read
SandraS: anyone here can share any writing they'd like to share for the next Write Talk session
MerileneM typed in aamu writing project in group search
AndrewA: anyone here know the word proleptic?
SandraS chuckles
AndrewA: As in proleptic instruction?
SandraS: ok, so that's what a lot of people have to do in Tapped In
AndrewA: My paper is about the use of proleptic instruction in high school classrooms
SandraS: that sounds interesting, Andrew....I'd like to read it
SandraS: I'm assuming you explain the term "proleptic instruction" in the paper

MerileneM joined group by clicking on Sandra's info, then aamu writing project, then join group

AndrewA: absolutely

SandraS thanks Merilene for so neatly describing how to join a group

SandraS: I guess I would ask y'all to imagine your ideal online writing group

SandraS: and then we can try and create that

AndrewA: also neat instruction forms like dialectic instruction and hermeneutic interviews

SandraS: the only boundaries are cyberspace and our imaginations

MerileneM : thanks, Sandra

SandraS: way, cool, Andrew

SandraS: if you join the group, you'll receive a reminder of the next meeting

SandraS: a reminder when a piece of writing is posted for reviewing

AndrewA: way cool. seems like a slang term from 10 years ago

MerileneM . o O (I don't know why aamu writing project did not show up in group search)

SandraS dates herself by her language

AndrewA: indeed

SandraS: and you can use the discussion board to post your ideas

MerileneM : so will we post, & people will give feedback where they can in discussion

SandraS: Merilene, AAMU Writing Project looks like the third link under groups

AndrewA: well, I've got to go. I've got to write a brief reflection about this experience and post it to my instructor tonight, Can you say procrastinate?

TereP: what does it mean "dates herself by her language?"

SandraS: when I click on Search, then on Groups, I see AAMU as 3rd link...

SandraS: yes, Merilene

MerileneM : thanks, Sandra. I knew I was doing something wrong

MerileneM : oh, I tried to enter the term

MichelleT: I will review the transcript tomorrow I am tired from a long day at work after school I ran a training session

SandraS: Tere, I mean that certain phrases give away that I am not twenty-something years old

AndrewA left the room (signed off).

SandraS loves the challenge of online communication!

TereP: thank you, Sandra, second language learner here

SandraS: thank you so much, Michelle, for joining us

SandraS: Thank you, Tere, for all your input

MichelleT: You're welcome

MerileneM : Sandra, does that matter

TereP: I'm excited about this group

SandraS: great, Tere!

MerileneM : I am too, Tere

SandraS: um, Merilene, do you mean does age matter????

MerileneM : yes, Sandra

SandraS: nah

SandraS: except that we get wiser

MerileneM : great!

SandraS: I hope

MerileneM knows the feeling

TereP: me too...

MichelleT: I will let the literacy coaches know about this group I'm sure they would love to talk about writing

SandraS: Thanks, Michelle.

SandraS: All are welcome...

SandraS: I'd love to hear more about what literacy coaches do...

SandraS: reading/writing are soooo linked

MerileneM : good. something else wonderful to share!

SandraS: if it's ok with everyone here, maybe we could hear some about Merilene's work with the spoken word/poetry?

SandraS: we've got a couple more minutes

TereP: yes!

SandraS: and I think that audience is so important for teaching writing

MichelleT: that would be great

SandraS: and poetry is one way to galvanize students

SandraS: go for it, Merilene

MerileneM . o O (sidenote: folks might want to listen to the archives of the world summit on the information society at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/geneva/>)

SandraS: thanks, Merilene, for reminding us

MerileneM is busted

SandraS: Merilene is multitasking....

MerileneM : surely, we're working with self expression which opens up doors to reading seasoned poets & deeper inspection of writing skills

SandraS: how does the organization work?

MerileneM : what did you ask really, Sandy -- oh about brave new voices? our group here

SandraS: yes, brave new voices

SandraS: what age teenager participates?

SandraS: is it only certain schools?

MerileneM : oh. we've got a room on the student campus for teens aged 13-19

SandraS: so any teen can join?

MerileneM : we meet online on Saturdays but work during the week through the discussion forum

TereP: can anyone participate in that age group?

MerileneM : yes, but I have to invite you and anyone you recommend

MerileneM : the student campus is restricted that way

SandraS: if the students from our poetry club wanted to discuss/mentor, would that be possible?

MichelleT: how large is the group

MerileneM : I'd love to have more input, Sandy & -- Michelle, right now we have about 20 members

MerileneM : but our group is a mix of adult mentors and students

SandraS: very exciting!

MerileneM : please write me & I will invite you & that's anyone who has a desire
TereP: really!
MerileneM : yes, Tere. for sure
SandraS: I will do that for sure
TereP: what about younger children?
MerileneM : what do you mean?
MichelleT: is there a program for them
MerileneM : I have a 14 year old hs freshman & she's one of our deepest thinkers/doers
TereP: thanks Michelle
SandraS: there are some great poetry pieces on the-n.com
MerileneM : Michelle, I hope to explore younger populations shortly but right now the teen poetry festival is a handful
MerileneM : the-n.com?
SandraS: Noggin television station
MichelleT: It makes sense
SandraS: the N is for teenagers
TereP: have you heard of Anthology of Poetry Inc? [Ed note:
<http://www.anthologyofpoetry.com/>]
MerileneM : thanks, Sandy
MerileneM : no, Tere
TereP: they gather poetry from school children from around the country,
TereP: select poems and publish them
TereP: they have a yearly publication
TereP: going on for 15 years
MichelleT: I'm going to sign off thank you everyone
MerileneM : very cool, Tere. I hope you have a link to share. email me
SandraS: Thanks, Michelle!
MerileneM waves by to Michelle
SandraS: I need to sign off, too.
TereP: thanks to all!
SandraS: Thanks to everyone for your great participation and ideas!
SandraS: I appreciated it very much.
MerileneM walks to the front of class to hug Sandra
SandraS big hug to Merilene
MerileneM : thank you so very much. this was great
TereP: this is very fun!
SandraS: yeah!
TereP: take care everyone!
SandraS: everyone have a wonderful evening.
TereP: adios!