

Title of Session: K-3+ Resources - Writing Strategies

Moderator: Susan Roseman

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Room: Comfy Conference

SusanR: tonight's session is writing strategies and technology

SusanR: Can we start with brief intros

SusanR: I need your fullest attention

SusanR: what brings you here and why

JanetAr: student teacher from University of Houston

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers and I lead a math education and technology discussion here in Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

ErikaSa: I'm a student teacher from the University of Houston

NancyNoy: I am doing student teaching at Patt Neff Elem. I have 3rd grade

FabiolaH: student teacher from U of H

IreneB: teach 2nd grade in Sonoma, CA

AshleyTH: My name is Ashley and I am not use to using this system. When I did the Tips and Tricks I kept getting kicked out of the room.

RebeccaW: I am an elementary school principal in San Diego

YuridiaC: I am a student teacher from UH and I am in a technology class that instructs me to be here

NancyNoy: in HISD

AvaA: I am from Houston, TX. U of H pre-service teacher in English 4-8

JanetAr: UH requires 2 professional developments so this is my 1st one

AshleyTH: I am from UH and I am currently student teaching in 3rd grade. I move to kindergarten next week.

ErikaSa: I'm also here for the technology class requirement

AshleyTH: me too.

YuridiaC: ditto

NancyNoy: I thought this would be an interesting professional development for my tech course

SusanR: . o O (I have taught grade 2 for more than I care to tell; former tech integrator ..and now I am a K to 8 sub)

SusanR: from Ontario Canada

AvaA: me too, but I do want to learn some strategies

IreneB: taking a Foothill tech course to learn about tech in the classroom

SusanR: So I have some great resources for you

SusanR: take a look at them ..see how they fit with your programme and you will have all the URLs in your transcript when you logout

AvaA: I've been thinking about cross-cultural literacy circles

SusanR: sounds interesting, Ava

SusanR: can you expand on that

AshleyTH: take a look at what? I am confused.

AvaA: the k-12 tapped in campus will allow teachers to work together

NancyNoy: me too

ErikaSa: so am I

AshleyTH: that is cool

SusanR: first link some journal prompts

JanetAr: I just learned about the k-12 campus, it's awesome

AvaA: I thought it would be cool to contact someone from another country and do some work

YuridiaC: I agree k-12 is good

SusanR: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/prompts.html>

JanetAr: Pen pals would be great

JanetAr: for students to interact and enhance their writing and social skills

AvaA: all the students can interact

NancyNoy: so this url will allow to contact other teachers

AvaA: many educators from different countries join tapped in

FabiolaH: wow there is lots of prompts

AshleyTH: A teacher from the school I was at last semester got in contact with a school from Alaska and their students are now pen pals. I think this is how the teachers met and thought of the idea.

JanetAr: Awesome prompts

SusanR: those prompts are a nice warm-up to the start of a class

YuridiaC: really nice

AvaA: cool

JanetAr: cool stuff

SusanR: keep them on file

AshleyTH: okay

NancyNoy: ok

RebeccaW: What other resources are teachers using for writing? Any programs that are used throughout a school?

SusanR: and from the same site some BIG BOOK Ideas

SusanR: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/beginning7.html>

AshleyTH: Thanks for giving us these links.

JanetAr: I have noticed during my student teaching placement that while the teachers were preparing students for the TAKS they would run into dead ends w/prompts that would motivate students

JanetAr: this is a great resource to have in hand

SusanR: and of course to go along with those prompts a checklist

YuridiaC: I can already see myself using this links, they are great

NancyNoy: I agree Janet because these prompts are also very interesting

SusanR: don't over rely on those prompts

AvaA: the prompts for the TAKS would confuse anyone

NancyNoy: they are not broad

SusanR: here's the checklist

ErikaSa: they also seem fun for the kids

SusanR: <http://4teachers.org/projectbased/k1wrt.shtml>

JanetAr: great assessment tool

JanetAr smiles

AshleyTH: We did a really neat lesson from a writing workshop. Students created a watermelon and wrote 10 topics. Then each watermelon had 10 seeds dangling that expanded on those topics. Students used these for writing prompts and they really enjoyed it because they picked their own stories.

FabiolaH: wow these are great tools that can be customized

YuridiaC: wow, this is definitely a useful one, especially when dealing with students who are taking the TAKS writing

SusanR: which can be customized by students or the teacher ..depending on grade level

JanetAr: Love the watermelon idea

NancyNoy: me too

AshleyTH: it's really neat

ErikaSa: yeah, that is a good idea

JanetAr: . o O (makes me even more hungry)

YuridiaC: perfect idea

AshleyTH: I know I am hungry too. This is right at dinner time.

SusanR: sorry guys..I know I should be offering appetizers

AvaA: I found most students wrote memoirs to respond to the TAKS prompt

JanetAr: these links were enough to take my mind off of food

JanetAr: thanks Susan

SusanR: I can offer you some graphic organizers

SusanR: <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

AvaA: great

NancyNoy: I need these!

NancyNoy: thanks!!

SusanR: I mean for your students

YuridiaC: so do I!

AshleyTH: Thank you!

ErikaSa: thanks

JanetAr: you know what I noticed, that at times when the students were stuck w/prompts they are encouraged to use imagination and make it up

JanetAr: I think most students start off on the right foot but eventually their ideas fade

AshleyTH: I have never seen a site that offers graphic organizers

JanetAr: since they did not live thru this experience

IreneB: picture prompts are also good

FabiolaH: this is really neat

AvaA: my kids are doing research next week and we need to narrow our topics

YuridiaC: yea that's what happens, and its sooooo much better to use their imagination

AshleyTH: picture prompts are a good idea.

YuridiaC: at least I think so

SusanR: for those that are hungry try this one

SusanR: http://www.mce.k12tn.net/reading39/paragraph_unit/graphic_organizer1.htm

YuridiaC: yes picture prompts are very good

AshleyTH: lol

NancyNoy: that was too cute

JanetAr: UUMMM I will use that one

JanetAr: je je

ErikaSa: that's good

NancyNoy: for the hungry!!

AvaA: students will like this one

JanetAr: OINK!

FabiolaH: cute!

YuridiaC: I have seen that one before

AshleyTH: definitely

JanetAr: I like this session, we will be logging out of here w/great tools for the classroom

AvaA: it makes writing more inviting

NancyNoy: I agree!

AshleyTH: me too

SusanR: These take forever to open ..so just file these PDF's away

AvaA: oh, I need those

SusanR: <http://home.att.net/~TEACHING/graporg.htm>

ErikaSa: I agree as well

AvaA: ok

YuridiaC: ok

IreneB: thank you

JanetAr: we can always come back to these once we receive the transcript

YuridiaC: yup, that's what I am going to do

SusanR: for the newbies online and for myself I steal/borrow ideas from Laura's filing cabinet

SusanR: Teaching Resources

SusanR: Free resources for teachers including worksheets and teaching ideas.

ErikaSa: yeah, that's pretty cool!

YuridiaC: ok great to know, thanks Susan

FabiolaH: great!!!

SusanR: <http://www.lauracandler.com/>

IreneB: super

SusanR: just look at her filing cabinet

AvaA: oh thank you

JanetAr: WOW

NancyNoy: many sites!

JanetAr amazed

YuridiaC: wow, this is very helpful stuff

ErikaSa: neat!

NancyNoy: never knew this existed!

IreneB: thanks

SusanR: a year's worth of resources

AvaA: I will put her in my favorites

NancyNoy: me too! great idea

JanetAr: o O (Thank God for Laura)

SusanR: are you blogging or publishing your students' work and creative writing

AvaA: I attended Columbia University writers workshop last summer. Do you have any resources for that

JanetAr: as a student teacher I do not do either but I think it would be awesome to blog their creative writing

JanetAr: and share it with other students

AvaA: I have been blogging, but I feel I am talking to myself

FabiolaH: we wrote poems for the past 2 days, and I just had the students share them in class

YuridiaC: I enjoy blogging

SusanR: exactly..and I can recommend a site called tastyword.com

SusanR: a minute to set up

SusanR: <http://tastyword.com/>

AvaA: how does that differ from blogspot

JanetAr: I always thought that it would be great to publish their stories in a book for them to keep and this will allow them to look back years from now and see how much they have grown in their writing

NancyNoy: but I am on live journal;

SusanR: this can be a journal

YuridiaC: hey that lady did on freedom writers

ErikaSa: cool idea Janet!

SusanR: or you can publish your student's writings

YuridiaC: thats a good idea

SusanR: <http://tastyword.com/sroseman/>

SusanR: can I have your attention please..because I have some interactive sites for your students..hands on ..

SusanR: instant poetry forms <http://ettcweb.lr.k12.nj.us/forms/newpoem.htm>

SusanR: try one and return in a few moments

NancyNoy: I don't know much about poetry but this will help for sure!

AvaA: this is just the site I need for light poetry after Stanford testing

JanetAr: yea good tool for us that are not too familiar

SusanR: it would make a lovely poetry unit!!!

IreneB: do not do a lot of poetry, so looking forward to this site

ErikaSa: kids really enjoy poetry

AshleyTH: I agree. Poetry is one of those topics that is scary to teach.

AvaA: students love lyrics and that's poetry

JanetAr: Yes I am sure they come up with amazing things

AvaA: get a beat going and let them rap

NancyNoy: I just looked through the HELLO SPRING TIME and it is neat!

AvaA: one of my fellow teachers did a rap contest with "The Scarlet Letter"

JanetAr: "I am an Animal" looks like a neat little activity to do

SusanR: many poems can be turned into raps for oral presentations

YuridiaC: Yea, I like that one too

JanetAr: we practiced similar poems like these in a reading class we took

JanetAr: the site has a ton to pick from!

SusanR . o O (note the lesson plan ideas)

JanetAr . o O (My favorites is going to be full!)

AvaA: do you have any resources for persuasive writing?

JanetAr: Wow this webie does all the work for you!

SusanR : http://www.msrogers.com/English2/poetry/30_days_of_poetry.htm

DavidWe: Do you all know about the National Writing Project?

DavidWe doesn't want to interrupt Susan's discussion

SusanR : copy and paste the poems into word as well; or even require students to hand write some of the poems

JanetAr: Amazing stuff Susan!

FabiolaH: it is amazing!

AshleyTH: I like the 30 days of poetry

YuridiaC: all of this is so helpful

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

ErikaSa: this is all very cool and helpful!

SusanR : yes, please mark your calendar for Sandra here who usually does a session on the National Writing Project

DavidWe . o O (8 March is the next one)

DavidWe . o O (9pm EST)

BJB2: 8pm CST

ErikaSa: cool, I'll probably be there!

AvaA: is the writing project a competition?

DavidWe: Long-term project, Ava - it's been around at least 15 years

AvaA: ok

JanetAr: . o O (wow time is flying by!)

SusanR: I think you need to devote a complete session ..to what the site has to offer

YuridiaC: I KNOW!

AshleyTH: Ok. Thanks for letting us know about that day.

AvaA: do teachers take it on year after year?

ErikaSa: yeah, thank you David

JanetAr: Susan, do these websites have resources for lower grades

JanetAr: such as K-PK

DavidWe thinks the focus of the NWP is grades 4-12

SusanR thinks about Janet's request for a moment

AvaA: that is great

JanetAr: I am a student teacher

JanetAr: and will be in a lower placement beginning Monday

JanetAr: I'd really love to use these resources

YuridiaC: me too because I will also be placed in a lower grade next week

AvaA: do your pre-k students use the computer, or do you project it

SusanR: the read write think site has a plethora of materials for all grade levels

SusanR: http://readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp

AvaA: I find that a great resource

SusanR: be sure to use the search tool to zero in on resources for both teachers and students

AshleyTH: thanks for all these websites

YuridiaC: so do I, I especially like the acrostic poem that's good for all grades to use

JanetAr: Thanks Susan

JanetAr: o O (Susan is so helpful!)

SusanR: questions..comments..anyone wish to share

AshleyTH: I am still taking all this in

AvaA: Susan, can you tell me what you do about grading writing papers. I try to be positive, but do I ignore the mistakes?

FabiolaH: I just want to say thanks for all the great websites

JanetAr: Ava, great question, I am curious also

SusanR: perhaps share a GREAT print resource or text or reference they are using

AvaA: could you expand

SusanR: or even a strategy that works for a reluctant writer???

JanetAr: or maybe just create a checklist

JanetAr: with guidelines they should follow

NancyNoy: that's an assessment

YuridiaC: yea, that's a good checklist

ErikaSa: good idea Janet

AvaA: I tried a rubric and everyone failed, so I had to abandon it

AshleyTH: rubrics are tricky

JanetAr: wow, that must be an awful feeling

NancyNoy: depends on what objectives are listed in the rubric though

IreneB: spelling always seems to stop their writing flow, so I have them underline any word they think is not spelled right, and continue writing--seems to work

JanetAr: I guess a checklist would allow for more flexibility

AvaA: yep

ErikaSa: that's true

SusanR: peer editing??

NancyNoy: oh yeah!

NancyNoy: they might even catch what we as teachers miss!

AvaA: they seldom offer good tips

SusanR: misunderstood minds

IreneB: I use peer editing quite a bit

SusanR: from PBS

SusanR: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/misunderstoodminds/writingstrats.html>

AvaA: I do too, but I wonder..

ErikaSa: yeah

JanetAr: I am not a fan of peer editing

YuridiaC: I am

NancyNoy: at certain times of the year it can be helpful Janet

JanetAr: even as a student I always remembered how I did not trust my peer's suggestions

AvaA: that's a great resource- thanks

YuridiaC: kids take pride in helping other peers and sometimes the kids respond better to peers than teachers

SusanR: <http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/writingStrat/>

AshleyTH: We tried peer editing with my kids and they did pretty well.

FabiolaH: I like peer editing

YuridiaC: I see what you're saying Janet, it does have its pitfalls

NancyNoy: also you have kids at different levels and this is when the pairing up helps everyone in the class

JanetAr: even in college I recall times when my peers would edit things that were later counted wrong by the instructor

ErikaSa: yeah, they don't really want to tell each other that they did wrong

AvaA: they often don't see anything wrong

NancyNoy: well you don't pair up best friends of course

AshleyTH: We paired up the high kids with the low kids and it worked really well. The high kids learned by helping the low kids and the low kids learned from the higher kids helping them.

NancyNoy: or take off the names

JanetAr: I guess it has its up's and downs

YuridiaC: Susan, I like that discovery site

IreneB: that's what I do too, Nancy

AvaA: I will try that next time

NancyNoy: it has to work in some way

SusanR: keep chatting amongst yourselves as we wind down this session

IreneB: The focus is for kids to continually see and hear good writing

AshleyTH: ok

NancyNoy: very interesting stuff!

AvaA: I guess we should read more in class

AshleyTH: I have noticed that writing gets neglected during the school day.

YuridiaC: not in my class!

YuridiaC: they take 4th grade writing TAKS

JanetAr: but after TAKS it's OVER

NancyNoy: we have writers in the school program and that seems to be a great time for kids

JanetAr: no more writing

AvaA: I always pair reading and writing during the day

FabiolaH: or in mine. we just took taks too, and the kids were writing so much

JanetAr: i heard a teacher joke "there will be no more writing until they get to 7th grade"

IreneB: we write every day, either in journals, writing letters or paragraphs--but not poetry:)

NancyNoy: sad

YuridiaC: but yes sad, I love writing!

AshleyTH: It is at the end of my day and I am in 3rd. They were focused on reading for TAKS and math is coming up so math gets 2 hours and 20 minutes of the day, which causes all the other subjects to lose time.

AvaA: do your students like the journals?

YuridiaC is a future children's books author

NancyNoy: me too Yuri!

JanetAr: Journals are great!

SusanR listens intently to her audience

JanetAr: esp w/the prompts provided by Susan today

IreneB: my journal writing is not graded--love it, and they draw a picture when done.

NancyNoy: love the idea Yuri!

JanetAr: As a student I recall the best times with journals was when my teacher wrote responses on them

JanetAr: I do not think they should be graded but reviewed should be a MUST

AvaA: I seldom read the responses

ErikaSa: yep

JanetAr thinking of elementary days

NancyNoy: that's what writers in the schools is all about Janet!

AshleyTH: I agree. If you get positive input from your teacher it always helps and makes students want to write more.

IreneB: I do write back to them, but since it's weekly, not daily

FabiolaH: responding to their writing boost up their confidence in writing

ErikaSa: I wouldn't see a point in writing if there was no response of some sort

AvaA: do your students ever keep literacy notebooks, where they store good ideas and mentor quotes?

JanetAr: I witnessed that in a class

JanetAr: the students noticed the teacher would not read the journals

AshleyTH: no, but that is a good idea.

NancyNoy: you read things that are never brought up in class

JanetAr: they began to write nonsense

YuridiaC: I have seen that too

SusanR: it is crucial to read and comment on their journal writings

IreneB: not aware of literacy notebooks? might, if I knew what they were

AvaA: a journal that serves to help you become a better writer

AvaA: memorable quotes

IreneB: thanks so much for all your "chat"--how do we get the transcript?

NancyNoy: great teachers out there!

AvaA: Thank you so much Susan

JanetAr: Transcript comes in email format

FabiolaH: thanks Susan

FabiolaH: bye to all

ErikaSa: thank you!

AshleyTH: see you then.

SusanR: Once you logout ..a few minutes later you should receive a transcript

IreneB: Thanks to Susan and all of you

AvaA: This has been a valuable hour

SusanR: a GREAT group!!

YuridiaC: very valuable!

AshleyTH: thanks

NancyNoy: Bye everyone!

SusanR: thanks all see you next month