

Title of Session: Learning Hub Special - WriteTalk

Moderator: Sandra Shattuck

Title of File: 20091116HUBwriting

Date: November 16, 2009

Room: WriteTalk Group

Room: WriteTalk_Grp

BjB: Sandy, why don't you get started with introductions....

CindyAS joined the room.

SandraS: OK, BJ

BjB cheers for Cindy....good job!

SandraS: Right on cue, Cindy.

BjB: and a reminder to go to Actions in the top right of your chat and select DETACH

CindyAS: hi

DianneA waves Hi to Cindy

SandraS: We usually begin our TI sessions by introducing ourselves with what we teach and where.

CindyAS: I teach 4th grade self-contained

SandraS: I teach literature and writing at a university in northern Alabama.

BjB: I'm on Tapped In helpdesk and am located in Pennsylvania

DoloresG: computer Lab K-8, St. Louis, MO

DianneA: My teaching area is 'professional development' and I am based in Wollongong NSW Australia .. and the bulk of my practice at the moment is with Tapped In

JeffC: I'm also on TI Helpdesk and in Forest Grove Oregon.

SandraS: Lovely...and there we are.

SandraS: I like this TI: Learning Hub idea and am glad to be a part of it this afternoon

(depending on time zone...)

SandraS: During my WriteTalk sessions, I begin with an introduction to the National Writing Project.

SandraS: We visit the site.

SandraS: Then go on to our topic.

SandraS: So my agenda today is similar -- and our topic is writing across the curriculum.

SandraS: So let's start with the National Writing Project, or NWP...

SandraS: Here's a quick introduction:

SandraS: The National Writing Project, a federally-funded, professional development group founded in 1974, believes in three basic tenets: 1) teachers are the best teachers of other teachers, 2) teachers teach writing more effectively if they improve their own writing, and 3) writing provides a powerful tool for learning in all subject areas.

SandraS: Tenet #3 is the one that will most concern us in this session.

DianneA nods in support of that tenet

SandraS: There are about 200 sites of the NWP across the U.S. and in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

SandraS nods along with Dianne

SandraS: The annual meeting of the NWP is coming up this week in Philadelphia, so I'm excited to be around all those creative and passionate teachers.

SandraS: Each site has a summer institute, and that's where a teacher starts. Once you participate, you can do anything within the NWP.

BjB: will you be there, Sandy?

SandraS: Yes. I'm presenting on the NWP Book Groups Ning.

SandraS: Very exciting!

BjB: great!

SandraS: Is everyone familiar with ning.com?

DianneA nods

CindyAS: no

PatriciaLE joined the room.

SandraS: My explanation is that a Ning is like Facebook but more open -- more conducive to getting folks to collaborate.

BjB waves hi to Pat. Glad you could join us!

PatriciaLE: Hello!

SandraS: Hello, Patricia!

SandraS: Welcome.

DianneA waves Hi to Patricia

SandraS: Would you like to introduce yourself and tell us what you teach?

PatriciaLE: I teach 4th and 5th graders Math and Science and some other subjects to the 5th.

SandraS: Welcome!

SandraS: I was introducing the National Writing Project

SandraS: I'll give you the URL for the NWP Book Groups Ning and you can look at it for a second and then come back here.

SandraS: <http://nwpbookgroups.ning.com/>

BjB: hold down ctrl when you click on the url

BjB: wow! That's quite a resource, Sandy!

BjB . o O (might even beat the Librarians sites)

SandraS: heh!

SandraS: Yes. But the best part is discussion...lively and passionate readers and teachers.

SandraS: Is everybody back?

SandraS listens for Dolores and Cindy

PatriciaLE: We are here!

SandraS: Yeah!

SandraS: Cindy?

CindyAS: yes

SandraS: The reason I mention this site is to underscore the tight relationship between reading and writing

SandraS: so although it's the National WRITING Project, there's a reading initiative

DoloresG: yes, we still have to open a separate window and type in the URL - holding on control key and clicking the link just does not work for us

SandraS: This connections is critical when it comes to writing across the curriculum

BjB nods to Dolores

SandraS nods to Dolores

ShayneTr joined the room.

SandraS: Hello, Shayne.

BjB agrees with Sandy...symbiotic relationship

SandraS nods

BjB: Sandy just shared this site with us, Shayne: <http://nwpbookgroups.ning.com/>

ShayneTr: Thanks!

SandraS bows thanks to BJ

SandraS: OK, so on to the NWP site.

SandraS: After I give you the URL, you can go to the upper right-hand corner and click on the map. You can find a NWP site near you.

SandraS: The NWP website is a huge resource. And I'll point a few of those out to you later. But for now, after you check the map, go ahead and type a search term in to the search box. Type in something that interests you....math, or journals, or ESL ... and see what pops up. Then come on back here.

SandraS: Any questions so far?

BjB: nope

SandraS: OK, then here's the URL

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

ShayneTr: What does nwp stand for? (sorry I was late)

SandraS: Sorry, Shayne.

SandraS: National Writing Project

ShayneTr: Thank you.

SandraS: The National Writing Project, a federally-funded, professional development group founded in 1974, believes in three basic tenets: 1) teachers are the best teachers of other teachers, 2) teachers teach writing more effectively if they improve their own writing, and 3) writing provides a powerful tool for learning in all subject areas.

PatriciaLE: We found the site.

SandraS: Excellent!

ShayneTr . o O (is there an equivalent program in Canada?)

SandraS: I don't know of one, Shayne.

SandraS: But it would make sense...

SandraS: Cindy, are you back?

CindyAS: yes

SandraS: I'm going to give you two URLs that you don't need to visit. But I'd like you to have these in your transcript.

SandraS: Both URLs are listed on the Whiteboard in this room.

PatriciaLE: We were talking about the way we feel comfortable writing on paper first.

SandraS: The first one points to a page on the NWP website that lists Resources on Teaching Writing, and one of the sections is on Writing Across the Curriculum.

SandraS listens to Patricia

SandraS: I'll get these two URLs to you and then we can talk about Patricia's comment.

SandraS: Here's that URL

SandraS: http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource_topic/teaching_writing

SandraS: The second URL is to a little booklet called 30 Ideas for Teaching Writing

SandraS: also a NWP publication

SandraS: the really nice thing is that it's excerpt of longer articles, and there are links to the longer articles

SandraS: here's that link

SandraS: <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/922>

SandraS: These are resources you may want to check out when you have time.

SandraS: Patricia, you were talking about writing on paper?

PatriciaLE: Yes

SandraS: Does that comfort translate to anything digital?

PatriciaLE: Yes

DoloresG: We are not what are called digital natives, so we like to write out on paper first and then put things on the computer

SandraS: Let's move on to writing across the curriculum...

SandraS: Ah...thank you, Dolores.

SandraS: I've got a note above with the heading "TI: Learning Hub," and I've put an excerpt from an article called "Writing to Learn for Preservice Teachers."

SandraS: I like what the author, Sam Totten, says in this article --- that most teachers never learn writing-to-learn or writing-across-the-curriculum strategies.

SandraS: It's not that their against writing in the classroom...they've just never learned how to use writing in their subject area.

SandraS: oops ... "they're against" not "their against"....typing too fast

SandraS: At the end of the quotation above, Totten says that teachers need three things -- they need to know that using writing in the classroom isn't a waste of time

SandraS: they need to know that writing won't mess up their teaching of the discipline

SandraS: and they need to know that writing will really help students learn content

SandraS: So, I'm curious if Patricia (science person) uses writing to learn science?

SandraS: ...not to put Patricia on the spot...

SandraS: Any thoughts from anyone?

PatriciaLE: Yes the students do lots of writing when working on experiments. They also do a cross-curricular unit on the regions of the U.S.

SandraS: And would you agree that their writing helps them to learn the material more thoroughly? Or not?

DoloresG: I am still putting together my grade 2 ti site, but I have had the students write about clowns and then I had to do some correcting, but then I posted that writing so they and their homeroom teacher could read each other's writing

PatriciaLE: For the students that are good at writing , the others feel more lost.

ShayneTr: I also ask for writing in visual arts -- reflections. In computer class - newsletters and other projects.

DoloresG: I feel that they all start somewhere and then cn build on that

ShayneTr: Question -- do we add spelling and grammar to assessment or does this inhibit writing?

SandraS: The million dollar question.....

DoloresG: I am not the homeroom teacher so I do not do that, but if they ask I tell them a spelling - later I correct their writing

SandraS: spelling and grammar tend to be part of editing and proofreading, so if you insist on that in freewriting, for instance, you can inhibit writing

PatriciaLE: I feel that spelling and grammar are important.

SandraS: Yes, I believe they're both important.

CindyAS: I just like the students to write and correct later

SandraS: Cindy, I think that model encourages writing.

SandraS: The theory behind writing to learn is that writing IS thinking...

SandraS: writing helps you to understand what you know and to figure out what you want to learn

SandraS: but you need the freedom to write badly in those first drafts

SandraS: before you really figure out what you're going to say

PatriciaLE: What about the students that only do one draft?

SandraS: Both Dolores and Shayne mentioned authentic audiences... that is, writers know that what they write will be read by others

SandraS: in a newsletter, posted on TI

SandraS: One draft is not writing...not if writing is rewriting. And most students have learned to write just one draft and think that's it.

ShayneTr: That's true.

SandraS: Most pieces of writing that are published have gone through multiple drafts.

SandraS: I work with a nursing professor here who teaches a writing course for publication for nurses...this professor has an article that has gone through about 20 drafts!

ShayneTr: When I work with individual students, I use the Review feature of Word to make comments and suggestions and send it back to them.

PatriciaLE: I know, but they don't want to rewrite.

SandraS: Great, Shayne!

SandraS: And Shayne's tip also helps those who don't want to rewrite.

BjB: Pat, it depends on what they're writing for...if it's for an authentic audience, they are often more willing to make edits

SandraS: If you've got a peer who's going to read your stuff and comment, then it's worth revising.

SandraS nods to BJ

BjB . o O (a peer can be an authentic audience...so can writing for a blog)

CindyAS: yes

SandraS nods to BJ

BjB: or posting to the discussion board in a K-12 Student classroom

DianneA remembers a thesis supervisor remarking that I wrote to find out what I thought ...

SandraS applauds Dianne's comment

SandraS: absolutely!

PatriciaLE: Some do rewrites and some don't want to be bothered.

SandraS: Another link I have in the TI: Learning Hub note above is to an article called "Students Write Tabloid Tabulations in a Math Gossip Magazine."

SandraS: I agree, Patricia...many inexperienced writers don't want to be bothered with revision.

SandraS: This article discusses a collaboration between an eighth-grade math teacher and a NWP teacher -- it's a very creative incorporation of writing in a math class.

SandraS: Even if you are not interested in participating in an NWP summer institute, NWP sites do professional development in the schools.

SandraS: So you can contact the site closest to you and see what they offer.

SandraS: "they"

SandraS: OK, we have about 10 more minutes.

PatriciaLE: Good proofreading

SandraS . o O (my editor tendencies are showing)

SandraS: Comments, questions about writing across the curriculum

SandraS: or using technology to facilitate learning and writing

BjB: a reminder that, although Sandy is our special guest for Learning Hub, she leads a monthly WriteTalk discussion in Tapped In.

SandraS: ...or concerns about your own writing....

DoloresG: I will take some time and read through the links you have provided

ShayneTr: Do oral reports fit in with this at all? Some of my students have a difficult time writing but are very articulate. I was thinking of using Voicethreads to reflect on artwork.

SandraS: Oh, excellent!

SandraS: Such a good idea.

BjB . o O (next WriteTalk discussion will be on December 10...please participate and let Sandy know how you've used this information)

DoloresG: voicethreads, I do not know, but podcasts I do know

SandraS: Podcasts often help reluctant writers.

SandraS: Thanks, BJ. Great idea.

SandraS: The National Day on

SandraS: Writing

BjB: we will not have a formal Learning Hub discussion in December unless Dianne wants to lead a discussion on Reflections

PatriciaLE: I have done podcasts before but we needed a script.

SandraS: was established to call attention to the multiple ways we use writing...without even knowing it.

SandraS: Yes...that's where the writing comes in.

BjB . o O (and please post reflections to the learning hub group room)

DianneA shares that it takes practice to move from writing on and reading paper form to writing on and reading comfortably directly in the digital form ... but in the end, if you persevere you begin to appreciate the power of correctibility in the digital form

SandraS nods to BJ

BjB . o O (I'll put a folder there for WriteTalk)

SandraS nods to Dianne

ShayneTr: For Dolores: <http://voicethread.com/#home>

SandraS . o O (so many good ideas and helpful thoughts)

SandraS: Most writers also don't understand the power of TALKING about writing

DianneA: Bj I will be happy to take a session on reflections for the Learning Hub either December or January, whatever would suit Dolores, Cindy and Patricia best

SandraS: I say that the consultants in the writing center have a super power...it's the gift of writing gab

BjB wonders about the power of listening

SandraS: yes... like reading and writing, listening and talking are inseparable, eh?

BjB nods solemnly

SandraS: One of my students with dyslexia uses Dragon Speak to help him write

SandraS: Tape recorders...

SandraS: speak it, then write it...

SandraS: then revise

PatriciaLE: January 12th is good for the three of us.

DianneA: thanks Patricia

PatriciaLE: At the same time

DianneA: Bj and I will work on offering that via the Calendar

BjB: on that note....there is a special Tapped In event tomorrow for Media Specialists on Assistive Technology...same time as this one

BjB nods to Dianne

DianneA: Sandra can I share my favorite quote about reading writing and talking ...

CindyAS: bye

PatriciaLE: Good-bye

SandraS: Please!

PatriciaLE: Sorry

BjB listens to Dianne

SandraS waves bye and listens to Dianne

DianneA: from Francis Bacon .. something about reading making a man full, conversing making a man clearer, and writing clearest ... sorry not an accurate quote off the top of my head

SandraS: very cool!

BjB: thanks, Dianne.

PatriciaLE: neat quote

BjB: Sandy, thanks for leading this discussion....it was terrific!

SandraS: Reading make a full man, conference a ready man and writing an exact man

SandraS thanks google

SandraS: Thanks, BJ, and thanks to everyone here for the great insights!

DianneA: here is the more accurate version

DoloresG: Thank you very much, I have a new appreciation for writing and I will be sure to check out your links

DianneA: "Reading makes a full man;

DianneA: conference a ready man;

DianneA: and writing an exact man."

BjB: you should post that in your welcome note, Sandy

SandraS: Thank you, Dolores.

BjB . o O (good quote)

PatriciaLE: Thanks for sharing with us tonight.

DianneA: your google was quicker than my desktop search!

SandraS nods to BJ

ShayneTr: Thank you Sandra.

SandraS: LOL, Dianne!

CindyAS: Thank You

BjB waves bye and goes to walk the dogs

DianneA: helps of course that I was able to cite the author!

SandraS: Have a good evening, all!

DianneA: bye all

PatriciaLE: thanks

DoloresG: bye

SandraS jumps on her hoverboard and whooshes off