

**Title of Session:** BirdSleuth Inquiry - What does INQUIRY mean to you?

**Moderator:** Jennifer Fee

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**Date:** April 10, 2009

Room: BirdSleuth Inquiry Group

**RobinE:** How is everyone doing?

**JenniferMF:** Well, if no one else shows... maybe we'll go enjoy the sun?!?

**BJB2:** are you involved in the BirdSleuth project, Robin?

**JenniferMF:** Doing good. We just moved 2 weeks ago though... so things are a wreck!

**RobinE:** Sounds fine to me - you have sun?? It's about to snow here!

**RobinE:** I have used BirdSleuth with my kids

**JenniferMF:** It's beautiful here! A little chilly but gorgeous. You're getting the stuff we got yesterday.

**RobinE:** They are just finishing their data collection - will start making graphs and doing analysis this week

**JenniferMF:** Robin was one of the original field testers!

**BJB2:** wow!

**JenniferMF:** Quick question, Robin... since your name got brought up yesterday....

**RobinE:** uh oh!

**JenniferMF:** uh oh is right =)

**BJB2:** then, by all means, enjoy the sun, Jen! It's overcast here.

**JenniferMF:** we were talking about accepting video or multimedia research "report" submissions next year-- maybe even a contest--

**RobinE:** That sounds fun!

**RobinE:** My kids put on some pretty funny skits!

**JenniferMF:** wondered if you had ideas/suggestions and/or might be willing to try that

out?!?

**JenniferMF:** I know your kids tend to be tech savvy.

**RobinE:** You know me... I'll try just about anything!

**JenniferMF:** Think podcast reports-- maybe news-style reports?

**JenniferMF:** Or power point shows for teachers/schools with less access.

**RobinE:** Podcasting is big at our school - we could totally do that!

**JenniferMF:** Something beyond "simple" written reports.

**JenniferMF:** Oh-- GREAT!!!!

**JenniferMF:** We were hoping to possibly see if we could find a couple of teachers to try out the idea this spring/summer...

**RobinE:** Actually - I could make a multimedia requirement---- have them create the reports in several different formats

**JenniferMF:** to use as an example for next year's crew.

**RobinE:** Our kids have started a news broadcasting network that gets posted on line

**JenniferMF:** That would be so cool!!!!!! Great examples maybe!

**RobinE:** it's not related to my class - the media folks are doing it

**JenniferMF:** I mean a great variety of examples =)

**RobinE:** I could easily connect with them - I'm not sure how they do all of it - I know it's linked to the school webpage

**JenniferMF:** BJ-- the idea came to me in one of this week's TI discussions... someone asked about podcasts, and I later thought "Eureka!"

**BJB2:** cool!

**RobinE:** The kids are doing their final reports next week

**JenniferMF:** Robin, in my head, I'm just thinking, wouldn't it be cool if, for example, those girls from last year were to SHOW us about their music effecting birds experiment!

**JenniferMF:** tell us what they did, what they found, show us how they set it up, etc.

**JenniferMF:** Anyway, if you have an interest in trying to pull anything off this year, I would be VERY interested in trying to showcase it!!!

**RobinE:** It may be easier to work with a few volunteers from this year's group - last year's are off at high school - it would be hard to coordinate with them

**JenniferMF:** Of course. I mean with this year's kids... but in my head I was just thinking of a cool example from last year =)

**RobinE:** I bet I could get a few kids easily to volunteer to do something

**RobinE:** There were some funny projects this year (not the most scientifically challenging questions from this group!- but some good ones and a few worth a few chuckles!

**JenniferMF:** I can't wait to get them =)

**JenniferMF:** maybe this group would do some really fun/engaging videos then.

**RobinE:** I know a few groups have even taken some video clips

**RobinE:** This project I'm working on for the school could generate a plethora of this type of project idea for you ...

**JenniferMF:** Well, Robin, that would be just wonderful! What do we need to be concerned about legal-wise...

**JenniferMF:** I mean with posting/sharing videos?

**RobinE:** ID

**JenniferMF:** Not that they aren't all on youtube anyway!

**RobinE:** no kidding

**JenniferMF:** OMG

**JenniferMF:** lol

**RobinE:** As long as we don't use last names and/or identifying locations, we should be all set. If we don't even use first names, we may gain some "freedom"

**BJB2:** you might want to look into partnering with [www.nextvista.org](http://www.nextvista.org)

**JenniferMF:** Our assumption has been anything teachers send us is OK to publish/post,

so long as no last names.

**RobinE:** I suppose they could create avatars (???) - but I find those to be a bit cheezy and a block to the spirit of genuine collaboration!

**JenniferMF:** I will check that site.

**RobinE:** me too

**RobinE:** So - for the immediate future - are you thinking podcasts?

**JenniferMF:** Yep.

**RobinE:** I could have a few kids do that

**RobinE:** I can also have a few post their video of their report/skit to the school webpage for you to check out.

**JenniferMF:** Really, anything... even "radio expedition" style (only audio)

**RobinE:** We have presentations coming up/ CAT testing, then vacation, so the plates are a bit full - it may take a few weeks to get it together

**JenniferMF:** That would be great. Again, it would be great to have anything this year... 1 as an example for others, and 2, to try to get the technology worked out on our end (how to organize and post them, etc.)

**RobinE:** I know Sheila would help me out with this as well

**RobinE:** Sounds like a good mission!

**JenniferMF:** That is totally fine. I'm thinking unveil it just in time for the next school year.

**RobinE:** That should be totally doable

**JenniferMF:** Like you mentioned... even filming the presentations would be more than we have =>

**JenniferMF:** or more than I even envisioned 2 days ago =>

**RobinE:** I'll start working on some ideas and get the kids input too - they are quite creative and they have insights into what works for kids!

**JenniferMF:** that's awesome. Thanks so very much.

**RobinE:** no prob! It will be fun

**JenniferMF:** it seems like fun!

**JenniferMF:** That's one of the reasons I'm excited about it!

**RobinE:** Remind me ---- when I'm pulling my hair out! :)

**JenniferMF:** oh please don't do that =)

**RobinE:** I'm just joshing

**RobinE:** We have GOT to talk - this will all fit together so nicely - it's like we're on a single plane in the universe!

**JenniferMF:** And even synch chat isn't quite good enough.

**RobinE:** true

**JenniferMF:** . o O ( MEET THIS SUMMER! )

**RobinE:** ABSOLUTELY!

**RobinE:** Are you getting a good response to the inquiry stuff?

**JenniferMF:** Pretty good. I feel like my world has shifted over the last month or so.

**RobinE:** My dissertation project may challenge our reasons for why it works

**RobinE:** in what way

**JenniferMF:** I'm intrigued!!!!!!

**RobinE:** Shifting how? To where?

**JenniferMF:** Robin, shifting towards more focus on online support... social networking... just really trying to think "out of the box"...

**RobinE:** I think that's a good thing to be investigating

**JenniferMF:** like we've been publishing results in Classroom BirdScope for 10 years....

**RobinE:** That's so the world now!

**JenniferMF:** but it's almost 2010. We need to move.

**JenniferMF:** to be on the cutting edge more.

**RobinE:** makes sense

**JenniferMF:** which is strange cause sometimes the comfort zone feels nice =>

**RobinE:** yep

**RobinE:** But the "stretch zone" is where the best stuff happens!

**JenniferMF:** Exactly. So I think... keep publishing... but for those teachers whose world is podcasts and youtube and tech... offer them space for that through BirdSleuth inquiry.

**RobinE:** sounds good!

**RobinE:** The virtual world is the future

**JenniferMF:** And also, I'm becoming more intrigued than ever with the "how to" around supporting inquiry in the virtual world.

**RobinE:** kids are so savvy with it too - they really have fun with it - it's motivating to them

**JenniferMF:** Budgets are BAD. It has to be the future whether we want it or not.

**JenniferMF:** No money to travel to people.

**JenniferMF:** We need to think of ways to push it to them.

**RobinE:** We should totally collaborate

**RobinE:** I've got great things on the horizon - I hope!

**EllenRP:** I'm not sure what I'm doing yet.

**RobinE:** That's ok -

**RobinE:** once it's sorted out - it will go smoothly!

**JenniferMF:** Yep... once you get it, you've got it... like riding a bicycle?!?

**RobinE:** This is suspenseful! In a good way!

**EllenRP:** Are you a regular member of this group?

**RobinE:** I am trying to be a regular member - only just got started with "Tapped in" - this

is my second visit

**JenniferMF:** Ellen, I created the group... I'm the project leader for BirdSleuth.

**EllenRP:** Hello

**RobinE:** I think this group has amazing potential

**EllenRP:** I'm very interested in inquiry based learning.

**RobinE:** Great!!

**JenniferMF:** I'd like to better understand ways that resources like Tapped In might help me support teachers (and teachers support each other) in inquiry =)

**EllenRP:** Has there been discussion about getting teachers to move in this direction and their fears?

**RobinE:** Have you done much with inquiry based learning? Are you new to the idea/process?

**RobinE:** The discussions are getting more numerous

**JenniferMF:** Some discussion about the challenges and fears... for example, the time it takes, how much guidance to offer students and when, etc.

**JenniferMF:** Ellen, I see you're a media center director. Do you work with teachers-- i.e. offer professional development?

**JenniferMF:** Or mostly work with students?

**EllenRP:** I have been a 5th grade teacher for 10 years.

**JenniferMF:** all subjects?

**EllenRP:** This is my first year as an LMC Director, but I would like to bring this process into their research and information literacy.

**EllenRP:** I work with both students and do a lot of collaboration with all the teachers in my elementary building.

**RobinE:** I must be "bowing out" soon - hate to leave once Ellen gets "tapped in"! Anything else for the next few minutes?

**JenniferMF:** I need to go, too, actually!

**JenniferMF:** Robin, I'm glad we chatted about the podcast idea!

**RobinE:** Well - it sounds like there are lots of good Ideas coming forward

**RobinE:** me too

**JenniferMF:** Let's be in touch about that... and I'll also be in touch this week with some NSTA proposals.

**RobinE:** Sounds good

**JenniferMF:** I wanted to write them up last week but missed the mark.

**JenniferMF:** Was planning to write them and put your name on all of them ;)

**RobinE:** Ellen - feel free to keep in touch - email anytime - [rellwood@sau50.org](mailto:rellwood@sau50.org)

**JenniferMF:** well... maybe one of them... or two =)

**JenniferMF:** also... join this group.

**RobinE:** Whatever you want to do is fine with me Jen

**RobinE:** OK - go enjoy the sun

**RobinE:** Let's all keep in touch

**JenniferMF:** OK, ladies, wishing you a sunny day =)

**JenniferMF:** in your head if not in your yard ;)

**RobinE:** Chat with you next time! Bye~

**JenniferMF:** bye all!

**JenniferMF:** BJ... I will have to share some new survey/data I am collecting about social networking and teachers.

**JenniferMF:** I surveyed the BirdSleuth teachers about their use of various networking sites... some interesting things... but just released the survey 2 days ago.

**JenniferMF:** I didn't want to post it here since these folks are "into" networking and TI... I want my "average" teachers.

**JenniferMF:** Anyway... I think you might find the responses interesting.



**BJB2** nods. I'd be curious to see the results!

**JenniferMF**: Great! We'll talk this week.... or see you around =)

**JenniferMF**: have a great weekend!!!!

**BJB2**: you too :-)