

**Title of Session:** WriteTalk - Reflective Writing  
**Moderator:** Sandra Shattuck and BJ Berquist  
**Title of File:** 20050811writetalk  
**Date:** August 11, 2005

Room: After School Online Room

**BJB2:** The big hand is straight up. Sandy has some information for us so let's get started

**BJB2** listens to Sandy

**SandraS:** Hello, everyone.

**RoseAH** joined the room.

**BJB2:** welcome, Rose. We're just getting started

**SandraS:** Usually we start with introductions, but unfortunately, tonight I have to cancel...

**SandraS:** I've got a son with a dislocated knee

**BJB2** sobs

**SandraS:** football...

**VictoriaLo** frowns

**KimberlyC1** frowns, too

**RoseAH:** I am glad I finally remembered where to go

**SandraS:** and I've been doing a bit too much, so now my back is out of whack

**SandraS:** however, I'd like to tell you a bit about the National Writing Project

**SandraS:** or NWP

**KimberlyC1** . o O ( poor Sandy )

**SandraS:** and then BJ will take you to the WriteTalk room so you can join the group, if you'd like

**RoseAH:** I would like to hear about it

**BJB2** nods

**SandraS:** also, please give me some ideas of topics for WriteTalk sessions

**SandraS:** basically we're an online writing group

**SandraS:** here to discuss our writing

**SandraS:** and teaching writing across the curriculum

**RoseAH:** I'm new to this group so I'll just "listen for a few minutes"

**SandraS:** I started Write Talk after participating in the NWP

**SandraS:** Summer Institute

**SandraS:** NWP is at

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

**SandraS:** and if you're interested

**SandraS:** you'll find a map this shows the 190 sites around the country

**SandraS:** NWP is a professional development organization that has been around for about 30 years

**SandraS:** started at UC Berkeley

**SandraS:** and has about 190 sites at colleges, serves mostly k-12 folks

**SandraS:** NWP has 3 tenets

**SandraS:** 1) teachers are the best teachers of other teachers

**SandraS:** 2) teachers teach writing better when they improve their own writing

**SandraS:** 3) writing is an excellent learning tool across all subject areas

**SandraS:** each of the 190 sites has a summer institute

**SandraS:** you can get a stipend or money paid toward graduate credit

**AnniceC** joined the room.

**SandraS:** some sites offer CEUs, other graduate credit

**SandraS:** once you go through the summer institute, you can participate in any NWP conference or program...

**BJB2:** Hi, Annice. Welcome

**SandraS:** like summer writing retreats!

**SandraS:** which are wonderful

**SandraS:** NWP believes school reform comes from teachers and respects teacher knowledge

**AnniceC:** good evening

**SandraS:** so NWP encourages teachers to publish their own research and ideas

**SandraS:** NWP has two publications

**SandraS:** The Quarterly

**SandraS:** and The Voice

**SandraS:** both are available online at the website

**SandraS:** ok, that's pretty much my spiel

**SandraS:** any questions before I take off?

**KimberlyC1:** no, it sounds interesting. I plan to share it with colleagues.

**SandraS** apologizes profusely for having to cancel and hopes to see y'all another time...

**VictoriaLo:** not that I can think of (for me)

**SandraS:** wonderful, Kimberly

**BJB2:** Thanks, Sandy. Hope you and your son heal quickly!

**SandraS:** BJ will take good care of you, and I send many thanks!

**KimberlyC1** agrees with BJ

**SandraS:** take care, all

**BJB2:** ok, everyone ready for a field trip?

**SandraS** left the room (signed off).

**KimberlyC1**: yup

**AnniceC**: yes

**VictoriaLo**: yep

**ChristopC**: yes

**ChristopC**: can't wait

**BJB2**: if you've detached your chat window, attach it again or find the other part of your screen

**KimberlyC1**: ok

**ChristopC**: done.

**RoseAH**: are we finished with write talk

**BJB2**: then look at featured passageways in the upper right

**SusanR** joined the room.

**BJB2**: and click on tapped in groups lobby

**KimberlyC1** left the room.

**AnniceC** left the room.

**BJB2** waves hi to Sue. We're taking a field trip to the writetalk room

**BJB2** left the room.

Room: Tapped In Groups Lobby

**BJB2** joined the room.

**ChristopC** joined the room.

**BJB2**: we've lost Rose

**VictoriaLo** joined the room.

**VictoriaLo:** I found everyone

**BJB2:** good, Victoria...let me see if I can get Rose up here

**KimberlyC1** claps

**BJB2:** I'm going to send you all ahead...look on featured passageways above this chat window...

**BJB2:** and click on WRITETALK

**BJB2:** that will take you to the group room

**KimberlyC1** left the room.

**AnniceC** left the room.

**VictoriaLo** left the room.

**ChristopC** left the room.

**RoseAH** joined the room.

**BJB2:** good job, Rose!

**BJB2:** now, look at featured passageways above this chat window

**BJB2:** and click on WRITETALK

**RoseAH** left the room.

**BJB2** left the room.

Room: WriteTalk Group Room

**BJB2** joined the room.

**SusanR:** Bj is rounding up everyone..she should be here momentarily

**BJB2:** yay..we all made it!

**BJB2:** good job, everyone

**BJB2** passes out gold stars

**SusanR** claps

**RoseAH:** I'm glad, just when I think I know what to do, I get lost again

**BJB2:** above this chat window is a note titled Write-talk your way on in...

**BJB2:** do you all see that?

**KimberlyC1:** yes

**VictoriaLo:** yes

**AnniceC:** yes

**RoseAH:** yes

**ChristopC:** yes

**BJB2:** scroll to the bottom of that note to This is the group room for writetalk

**BJB2:** and click on the green i

**KimberlyC1:** K

**BJB2:** that will show you the group ID page...

**AnniceC:** ok

**BJB2:** at the top is a place to JOIN THIS GROUP (just click)

**BJB2:** once you've joined, click on ROOM VIEW

**KimberlyC1** does as told!

**AnniceC:** ok

**BJB2** smiles...what a good girl!

**RoseAH:** I'm there

**BJB2:** when you click on Room View you are returned to the welcome screen...

**KimberlyC1** smiles

**SusanR:** what a great group, bj

**BJB2:** the first screen you see when you first enter a room

**BJB2:** the welcome screen usually has a bunch of information that is useful

**BJB2:** as in any group room, you can have a real time chat...

**BJB2:** you can look at the resources available...

**BJB2:** and....as MEMBERS of the group, you can post to the discussion board

**BJB2:** and store your own files and resources...so you are adding to the groups resources

**BJB2:** the name of the Tapped In game is COLLABORATION

**BJB2:** also, as members of the group you will get any posts to the discussion board.  
Sandy usually posts a reminder for when the meetings are

**BJB2:** any questions on the features or anything else?

**BJB2:** . o O ( one more thing.... )

**RoseAH:** Are we having a discussion chat tonight

**BJB2:** when you've joined a group, the group name is added to your favorite places menu

**BJB2:** so you can easily come here at any time

**SusanR:** indeed we are, Rose

**BJB2:** we can have a discussion on anything you want, Rose. Sandy wanted us to come up with suggestions for future discussion topics

**BJB2:** I recently attended the National Gallery of Art Teachers Institute on digital storytelling...

**BJB2:** one of the cool ideas for getting story ideas was to make a list of "I Remember"

**RoseAH:** Since it has to do with writing, do we gear it toward teachers or students, our ideas I mean

**BJB2:** I remember walking to school

**BJB2:** I remember when my brother was born

**BJB2:** I remember when etc. etc

**BJB2:** Rose, either is fine

**BJB2:** I think the I remember lists could work with both

**RoseAH:** This sounds great for a writing prompt, tell me more

**BJB2:** I was thinking about it this morning and thought about writing I remember happy things

**BJB2:** or I remember sad things

**BJB2:** or I remember things that made me angry

**BJB2:** each one of the memories could be a start to a whole digital story

**VictoriaLo:** and the students just write from there?

**BJB2 . o O** ( or writing assignment )

**VictoriaLo:** or is it more controlled?

**BJB2** nods to Victoria...I imagine if you want to make it more controlled, you could...

**BJB2:** but when we had the assignment at the institute, it was amazing how we all filled up pages and pages in a very short amount of time

**BJB2:** one memory triggers another

**KimberlyC1 . o O** ( interesting )

**BJB2:** btw, my transcript for my digital story for the institute is in the files in this room

**SusanR:** sort of free association

**BJB2** nods to Susan. Then you can refine or expand from the list

**BJB2:** I thought I would have a huge list of sad things when I started..but it turned out that I had a list of funny events that I remembered as I was growing up

**AnniceC:** that's usually the case

**BJB2:** it was my first experience with that, Annice...total novice!

**BJB2 . o O** ( I'm an art teacher, btw, not a writing teacher )



**AnniceC:** cool

**AnniceC:** expression in another form

**BJB2:** so, does anyone else have suggestions for topics that Sandy can address during this coming school year?

**BJB2:** I do suggest you go to Links and Files on the blue menu to see the resources Sandy has for us

**KimberlyC1:** ideas for research topics, maybe--getting students more motivated about it.

**BJB2:** ahhh...good one, Kimberly

**AnniceC:** have you guys heard of Questia

**KimberlyC1:** yes

**VictoriaLo:** yes

**SusanR:** it would be interesting for teachers to keep a daily reflective journal..along with their students

**AnniceC:** great....

**BJB2:** absolutely, Sue! It's very important for teachers to model writing

**AnniceC:** it has 6000+ research topics, that could be used as idea

**BJB2** . o O ( I know it motivates my kids )

**KimberlyC1:** yes, I wanted to do that, Susan, using a blog in the classroom, but my district blocked the site. I guess I'll do it in a more traditional form.

**BJB2:** do you have a url, Annice?

**AnniceC:** [www.questia.com](http://www.questia.com)

**BJB2** . o O ( duh...that was hard! )

**VictoriaLo:** lol

**AnniceC:** lol

**KimberlyC1** snickers

**BJB2:** Sandy has discussed blogs

**AnniceC:** I had an opportunity to use bloggers this summer. it is a good idea

**BJB2:** if you can get Tapped In unblocked, Kimberly...and TI has information that you can give your tech people...

**ChristopC:** There was a very interesting writing activity presented a conference my coworker attended. The students draw the layout of their home on a large sheet of construction paper, and then write three memories that correspond with each room inside the home. If they have only three rooms in their home, then they end up having nine story starters after completing the activity.

**BJB2:** you can use the student group rooms and the threaded discussion boards for the kids to post...sort of bloglike

**VictoriaLo:** I live for blogs. I don't use them in class because our district blocked them, but I use them for everything else

**BJB2:** cool, Christopher...kind of like the I remember, but attaching it to various rooms

**KimberlyC1:** good idea. Thanks

**SusanR:** The Blog Salon Group meets weekly with some hearty discussions and excellent samples of blogs created by members of the group

**BJB2:** kitchen might prompt smells and sounds

**BJB2:** . o O ( memories of )

**VictoriaLo:** that would be a great exercise to use adjectives and get the descriptions going

**KimberlyC1:** I'm a member of the Blog Salon, actually. They gave me the idea of blogs. I just found out about the blocking today.

**BJB2** agrees with Victoria

**BJB2:** bummer, Kimberly

**KimberlyC1:** I think that I can find a way around it, and Tapped In is a good idea.

**BJB2:** if you want to approach your district about poking a hole in the firewall for outgoing only...

**BJB2:** check the faq page...let me get you a url

**VictoriaLo:** anyone have any other ideas about writing prompts?

**VictoriaLo:** I like the national art gallery idea

**BJB2:** Q: My school has a proxy server and I can't get chat to work. What can I do?

**BJB2:** A: Your proxy may change the IP address of requests from your computer (the one behind the proxy). If so, when the chat applet tries to send a message from your computer to the Tapped In server, the proxy might block the outgoing request, or ignore the replies from the server to your computer. To fix this, ask your system administrator to configure the proxy to allow a conversation starting from your computer (TCP outgoing), proceeding to the Tapped In server ([tappedin.org](http://tappedin.org)), and then returning on port 8000. A single TCP connection will then be established for the duration of the chat session, originating from your computer.

**BJB2:** <http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/help/faq.jsp#proxy>

[Ed. Note: Also check out firewalls

Q: I'm behind a firewall and can't get chat to work. Is there anything I can do?

A: If you see an error "could not connect to [tappedin.org](http://tappedin.org):8000" in the chat area, you need to contact your system administrator and ask him or her to open port 8000 to outgoing TCP traffic. (Port 80 also needs to be open for http traffic, but that the common web page port, so if you are reading this, it is already open!)

More specifically:

Port 8000 is for TCP traffic to the Tapped In chat server. Port 8000 must be open for a socket connection, not just http, to enable chat.

From the perspective of your system administrator, port 8000 needs to be open for outbound traffic only, not incoming traffic, which means that it is not a security risk. Opening this port should be a simple change to the configuration, taking only a few minutes. If you want an even smaller "hole" in your firewall, just open this port for the IP address of 128.18.30.180.

More background on why we use port 8000 for chat:

Tapped In has two parts, as shown in this [a picture of the interface](#): an upper web area that uses the standard web port (80), and a chat area that requires a separate, dedicated port through which the chat server pushes updates to the client when someone in the room speaks. Our chat system is similar to other instant messaging software (like AOL, YIM, MSN), which usually choose a fixed or random high port that is open to send traffic. Some instant messaging software will also poll on port 80 if no higher ports are open, but our chat does not have that functionality; in addition, some system

administrators explicitly want to block anything except web traffic, and dislike it when instant messaging software "goes around" their efforts by using port 80. We chose a fixed port, 8000, for chat since it is usually open (in our experience, and from what we've read), and if not, administrators can open it in a few minutes by adding a line to the firewall that allows outgoing TCP from port 8000, without compromising security.

<http://tappedin.org/tappedin/web/help/faq.jsp#firewall> ]

**KimberlyC1:** Thanks.

**BJB2:** since you like the NGA idea....

**BJB2:** what about going to [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov)

**BJB2:** and showing a painting

**VictoriaLo:** good idea

**BJB2:** let the observers describe what they see and what they feel is happening in the artwork

**BJB2** . o O ( no right or wrong answers...but they have to explain why they say what they do )

**KimberlyC1:** Yes, I use art prompts a lot in writing, and I like to use art for students to compare and contrast with a piece of literature (Theme, mood, style, etc).

**BJB2:** even children's picture books can be good writing prompts...Dr. Seuss's My Many Colored Days

**BJB2:** what color is your day today and why

**KimberlyC1** . o O ( interesting idea )

**BJB2:** there is a wonderful video that goes with the book...animation and music

**AnniceC:** you know using that same idea, if you as a teacher went on vacation this summer, perhaps a historical place and you took plenty of pictures, convert to a digital storytelling video and use that as the inspiration for the topic. PhotoStory 3 is good to use

**VictoriaLo:** oh that would be good?

**VictoriaLo:** !!!

**BJB2** nods. iMovie on a mac

**AnniceC:** you could add music and voice.

**KimberlyC1** . o O ( I think that we have a lot of Tech in the Classroom students in here today! )

**BJB2:** for the NGA digital stories we had to have one page double spaced

**BJB2:** so we had to really refine our stories

**SusanR:** Is your story posted here, BJ

**KimberlyC1:** Yes, that is a good idea for making students' thoughts more concise and succinct

**BJB2:** yes, Sue, under Files (the Angel's Touch)

**SusanR:** I am sure this group will be inspired by the story BJ

**SusanR** clicks on Files

**BJB2:** I had posted the story to get feedback from the group

**BJB2** . o O ( BEFORE the institute )

**SusanR** and clicks on The Angel's Touch

**SusanR:** BJB, can we give the group a few moments to read the story?

**BJB2** nods to Sue

**VictoriaLo:** I have to leave, but thanks for the ideas!

**BJB2:** Thanks for joining us, Victoria

**VictoriaLo** left the room (signed off).

**AnniceC:** I like that

**KimberlyC1:** nice

**BJB2:** thanks, Annice

**SusanR** has noticed the new revisions and refinements to the story

**NancyBB** joined the room.

**BJB2:** Hi, Nancy.

**NancyBB:** hello

**NancyBB:** sorry for the late join

**SusanR** touches the indentation in her upper lip

**BJB2:** Just in time for the end of the discussion, Nancy!

**BJB2** smiles at Sue.

**NancyBB:** lol better than nothing!

**BJB2:** we've been talking about ideas for Sandy to use as topics for future Writetalk discussions

**SusanR:** what a stimulating discussion

**RoseAH:** right, one was "I remember"

**BJB2:** the group is great, Sue...you were right!

**BJB2:** we're almost out of time...any questions or comments?

**SusanR:** there is a great book I used for creative writing ..Wishes, Lies and Dreams

**NancyBB:** by Kenneth Koch?

**SusanR:** I will dig up the author

**SusanR:** that's it, Nancy

**BJB2:** cool

**NancyBB:** he also has one called rose how did you get that red

**SusanR:** I had huge success with it

**NancyBB:** about teaching poetry to kids

**NancyBB:** basically, you have them read well known poems and then model them

**RoseAH:** I really enjoy teaching poetry!

**SusanR:** 30 days of poetry..

**RoseAH:** Shape poems are fabulous for 2nd graders

**NancyBB:** I do national poetry month with my kids

**NancyBB:** poets.org is a great resource

**BJB2:** Sue leads the K-3 Resources discussions on the calendar, btw

**SusanR:** [http://www.msrogers.com/English2/poetry/30\\_days\\_of\\_poetry.htm](http://www.msrogers.com/English2/poetry/30_days_of_poetry.htm)

**AnniceC:** great

**NancyBB:** and they give you free posters and bookmarks for natl poetry month

**SusanR:** I did a session on poetry

**RoseAH:** Will you do another one

**BJB2** . o O ( there's another topic for Sandy )

**SusanR:** yes, I plan to repeat the session

**KimberlyC1:** Thank you for the ideas. I have to prepare for my students tomorrow.

**BJB2:** Sue is starting a series on 4 Blocks

**ChristopC:** No problem!

**BJB2:** Thanks everyone, for joining the discussion! you were a great group.

**AnniceC:** have a great night. this was good

**BJB2:** we'll all send Sandy our best wishes for a speedy recovery

**RoseAH:** I will have to dig up the name of two great books for teaching poetry and share

**ChristopC:** You were a good facilitator Bj

**SusanR:** I feel inspired, BJB

**BJB2:** thanks, Christopher

**ChristopC:** Goodnight all

**RoseAH:** waves

**BJB2:** I always feel inspired by this group

**BJB2** waves goodnight to Rose

**RoseAH:** Good night!