Title of Session: WriteTalk - Sharing Best Practices in Writing
Moderator: Sandra Shattuck
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Room: WriteTalk Group

BJB2: Welcome to today's WriteTalk discussion.

FredK joined the room.

BJB2: we usually start all Tapped In discussions with introductions

DavidWe waves to Fred

ChrystalA: hello to all!

FredK: Hi everyone

BJB2: please tell Sandy a little about what brings you to the discussion and what you teach

JeanineMH: good evening!

BJB2 waves hi to Fred

FredK: Hi Bj

ChrystalA: I am in the last phase of the educator program at UH and I am currently teaching kindergarten.

JeanineMH: I teach third grade. I have mostly second language learners. Writing is the most difficult subject I teach

ChrystalA: Not much writing going on in there except for their name.

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler, a HelpDesk volunteer and leader of the math education and technology discussion. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

SandraS: I teach writing and literature at college level, Alabama

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: Lots of drawing with crayons, huh, Chrystal?

JeanineMH: Do you teach at Univ of Alabama?

ChrystalA: The only writing utensil we utilize.

StephaniW joined the room.

SandraS: in Huntsville, Jeanine

SandraS: Hi, Stephani

SandraS: We're just doing introductions

StephaniW: Hi, sorry I am late

JeanineMH: Oh, I did a degree completion at U of A

SandraS: great!

FredK: I am a literacy tutor for the Pushmataha County Literacy Council in SE OK

SandraS: Stephani, you want to introduce yourself?

MaryannA joined the room.

StephaniW: Hi, I teach 6th grade in Fallbrook, CA

DavidWe waves to Maryann

SandraS: thanks, Stephani

JeanineMH: Hi Stephanie

SandraS: Hi, Maryann.

StephaniW: I work with a lot of ELLs

JeanineMH: Me too

SandraS: Would you like to introduce yourself, Maryann?

SusanR joined the room.

SandraS: great...we can talk about ELL and writing

SandraS hugs Susan

DavidWe waves to Susan

SusanR: Hi Sandra

MaryannA: Sure, I am an instructional tech and school improvement consultant

ChrystalA: Though I am not in a bilingual classroom, my degree specializes in bilingual education.

BJB2: just finishing up intros, Sue

SandraS: Sue, want to introduce yourself?

SusanR: I am a K to 8 Occasional Teacher and facilitator of the K to 3+ Great Resources ASO sessions here at TI..from Ottawa, Ontario

DavidWe . o O (Susan's shy - she's Canadian)

DavidWe grins

SandraS chuckles

JeanineMH: lol

SandraS: and I assume everyone knows BJ

SandraS: great art teacher

SandraS: Tapped In diva

SusanR LOL

DavidWe: that's capital "D"

BJB2 waves hi. I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania and am on Tapped In helpdesk

JeanineMH: go Steelers! (again)

SandraS: I recognize almost everyone here. Usually I start with a quick spiel on National Writing Project, but we dispense with that if everyone knows it...

SandraS: how many want the spiel?

SandraS: raise your hands....

JeanineMH: me (sorry)

StephaniW: me please

DavidWe is impressed that Sandra can SPELL SPIEL

SandraS: ok

SusanR raises right hand

SandraS: National Writing Project is a professional development organization

ChrystalA: me too

SandraS: founded in 1973

SandraS: federally funded

FredK: Go for it

SandraS: started in Berkeley

SandraS: the idea is that teachers are the best teachers of other teachers

SandraS: that's the primary tenet of the professional development

SandraS: no packaged deliveries from non-teachers

SandraS: and that writing is a powerful learning tool across ALL subject areas

SandraS: and that teachers teach writing

SandraS: better when they improve their own writing

JeanineMH: I agree

StephaniW: definitely

SandraS: there are about 190 writing project sites across the nation

SandraS: they are all housed at universities

SandraS: either in education dept. or English, usually

SandraS: primarily education

JeanineMH: Actually I think I write better now than before I was a teacher

SandraS: cool!

SandraS: and the writing projects gear more towards k-12 teachers

SandraS: the major project for each site is the summer institute

SandraS: happens at each project, each summer

SandraS: participants can get grad credit, stipends

SandraS: it's a wonderful experience

SandraS: once you do a summer institute, you can do anything in the writing project

SandraS: tonight we're going to look at a couple resources on the website

SandraS: I'm going to give you the url and you can look for a site near you

StephaniW: Thanks

SandraS: then just come on back here in about 2 minutes and I'll show you some other resources we'll focus on

SandraS: http://www.writingproject.org

SandraS: there's a link to a map

SandraS: and you can find a site in your area of the country

StephaniW: Yes, I found one in San Diego

SandraS: great

JeanineMH: thanks, Stephanie

SandraS: ok, everybody back here?

MaryannA: yes

ChrystalA: yes

StephaniW: yes

SandraS: great! any questions right now about the NWP?

StephaniW: Yes what is the summer institute?

FredK: yes

SandraS: ok, the summer institute (SI) usually lasts about 4 weeks

SandraS: it's at different times during the summer depending on the region

SandraS: each site does the SI a little differently

SandraS: but basically it's about 15 teachers who come together

SandraS: k-16

SandraS: and you share best practices, research writing, and write write write

SandraS: for instance, this last summer at my site, we did a writing marathon

SandraS: went to the art museum for about 3 hours and wrote in groups and shared

SandraS: usually you're in a response group

SandraS: and you share writing every day

SandraS: another fantastic resource is the E-Anthology

SandraS: every SI participant can sign up

SandraS: and submit writing

SandraS: and get feedback from teachers across the country

SandraS: and the writing can be professional, that is, on the teaching of writing

SandraS: or it can be fiction, poetry

ChrystalA: What is the cost?

SandraS: we have incredibly talented teacher/writers!

SandraS: often it doesn't cost anything

SandraS: in other words, at our site participants receive $1,000 stipend

StephaniW: Is there an application process?

JeanineMH: I can imagine there are very talented teachers!

SandraS: but they also don't get any grad. credit

SandraS: sites where you can get grad. credit, your stipend usually goes towards that

SandraS: the application process is different at each site

SandraS: and there's usually a website for each site

SandraS: you can always contact the director

SandraS: usually recruitment happens early in the year and applications are usually in around March...again that varies

SandraS: other questions?

StephaniW: do they recruit from districts or just from the website?

SandraS: word of mouth, through principals, through other TCs (teacher consultants) who have been through the SI, through inservice centers...

SandraS: other questions?

ChrystalA: How many individuals are usually accepted per site?

SandraS: about 15

SandraS: seminar size

JeanineMH: wow. that seems like a lot

SandraS: I've found it's a good size for what we do

SandraS: great conversations on all kinds of issues

SandraS: so, what I'd like you to do is to go back to the NWP website...but just not yet....

SandraS: and when you're on the page, you'll see an image to the lower left

SandraS: under that image is a link called "Welcome Teachers"

SandraS: I'm going to ask you to click on that link....not just yet....

SandraS: and read stuff as you scroll down the page...and you'll get to "NWP Resources"

SandraS: when you get there, click on "Because Writing Matters" ...this is a book

SandraS: it's a fantastic resource

SandraS: but I just want you to click on the book and then click on "Key Points"

SandraS: read through those and note questions or comments....take about 5 minutes...come back here and we'll discuss....

SandraS: so...

SandraS: http://www.writingproject.org

SandraS: click on Welcome Teachers

SandraS: scroll down to NWP Resources

SandraS: click on Because Writing Matters

SandraS: click on Key Points and read...

SandraS: sound ok?

StephaniW: yes

SandraS: see ya in about 5 minutes

MerileneM joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Merilene

MerileneM: hey, bj!

BJB2: we're looking at http://www.writingproject.org

BJB2: and the topic Because Writing Matters

SandraS gives big hugs to Merilene

JeanineMH: I'm back. very interesting points

SandraS: glad you made it back!

SandraS: who else is back?

StephaniW: What do you think of the 6 traits of writing?

SandraS: that's a very popular process in NWP

SandraS: I have not yet studied it and I keep meaning to...what do you think, Stephani?

ChrystalA: seems like it should be a part of every educator's philosophy

SandraS: I agree Chrystal

SandraS: I think all the points can be applied to all disciplines

StephaniW: it sounded like it fit in perfectly when it was talking about teaching students different aspects of writing

SandraS: cool!

ChrystalA: definitely, all subjects are interdependent

StephaniW: at my school we teach students how to use a rubric to analyze these traits in their own writing

SandraS: There is an ELL network in NWP

SandraS: excellent

SandraS: so cool to have students take charge of their own writing

StephaniW: what does the ell network offer? ideas?

JeanineMH: I liked the point that states an effective writing assignment does more than ask student to report what they have read or experienced.

JeanineMH: writing must engage students in problem solving, reflecting, analyzing...

SandraS: really a network of institutions, their own conferences, huge resources, site grants

SandraS: there's some really good stuff going on there

SandraS: if you go to publications

SandraS: you can see THE QUARTERLY

SandraS: and you can search it for ELL articles and writing

MaryannA: I noticed on the website that there are grants to help projects include technology and digital literacy in writing. Does anyone have any experiece with using wikis or blogs with students

StephaniW: I started to use a blog with my students at the end of last year

SandraS: I do...there's a huge push in NWP to do technology

SandraS: and I'm on a teach that facilitates an annual retreat

SandraS: for teachers to write about their practice in using technology to teach writing

SandraS: I've used blogs

JeanineMH: I use a blog too. It's great to get students writing...about anything!

SandraS: really want to try a wiki in the classroom too

SandraS: I agree Jeanine

StephaniW: my students seemed to enjoy the blogs as well

SandraS: cool!

SandraS: any other comments about Because Writing Matters?

SandraS: we've got more to explore!

BJB2 . o O (I started a blog for my kids, Sandy, and Adam Frey from wikispaces will be a [Tapped In] guest in Oct)

StephaniW: I was hoping to have them communicate with another class at a local school, but we ran out of time

JeanineMH: I want to do that also

SandraS: oh, thanks BJ for the heads up about the wiki!

SandraS: how's your blog going, BJ?

MaryannA: wikispaces are offering free wiki space to educators. The cost was $50

SandraS: that is great!

ChrystalA: I barely began to use blogs myself. But I've noticed blogs and emails are great to have students collaborate with other classes.

JeanineMH: Stephanie, do you want to communicate with my third graders?

BJB2: the kids are pretty motivated to write.

SandraS: cool, BJ

StephaniW: Jeanie that sounds good

SandraS: I smell collaboration between Jeanine and Stephanie

JeanineMH: let's do it!

SandraS: very cool

StephaniW: Let's talk on Tuesday

JeanineMH: ok

BJB2: http://voicesfromloysville.blogspot.com/

SandraS: yeah! I love Tapped IN!

MerileneM: me, too.

SandraS: yeah, Merilene

BJB2: we welcome comments to the topic or to the posts

SandraS: let's take a look at BJ's blog for a minute...

SusanR: neat Bj

SandraS: http://voicesfromloysville.blogspot.com

MerileneM: very cool blog

BJB2: I give the kids a weekly topic...

BJB2: and they write their entries in their journals. When I get home I post to the blog

JeanineMH: very cool!

StephaniW: the dream writings are cool

SusanR: wonderful

ChrystalA: what a great way to engage students in not only writing but their life

BJB2: thanks for your positive comments

SandraS: inspiring writing...

StephaniW: do you ever have them type their writing themselves into the blog?

SandraS: I was wondering that, too, Stephanie

BJB2: no. They are not allowed to be online

MerileneM: my very question, Stephanie

SandraS: ah....

SandraS: shoot...

StephaniW: that's too bad

ChrystalA: school policy?

BJB2 . o O (these are court adjudicated juveniles in a correctional facility)

JeanineMH: at least they can have a release through writing

SandraS: do they get to see their words on the blog....log onto the web to read?

SusanR: do they have access to computers at all. Bj

BJB2: I am waiting for a plug so I can use a projector and show them the blog and comments

SandraS: oh, cool...

BJB2: yes, we use computers, Sue

SandraS: I think they would love to see their writing on the web...

SandraS: I'll definitely go comment

MerileneM: and comments

BJB2: I told one kid about DK in the United Kingdom and he said I was lying!

SandraS: DK?

BJB2 . o O (no one from the UK would waste their time answering our blogs)

SandraS: ah....

BJB2: DK = www.mediasnackers.com

SusanR: perhaps from a similar facility

SandraS: if you don't get the plug soon, you can always print out

BJB2: which is a very cool site, btw

BJB2 nods to Sandy

SandraS: very exciting

BJB2: DK is also going to be in Tapped In

SandraS: so that's one of the points in Because Writing Matters

SandraS: authentic audience...

BJB2 nods solemnly

SandraS: which blogging provides

SandraS: oh, cool....on DK

DonnaRo joined the room.

SandraS: how many of you have published your own writing about teaching practices?

SandraS: Hi, Donna.

DonnaRo: hello

ChrystalA: I hope to soon.

DonnaRo: what are we discussing in here

SandraS: we're talking about teaching writing

SandraS: great, Chrystal

SandraS: I wanted to show you some resources

SandraS: in case you're thinking about publishing

SandraS: if you go back to the URL I'm about to give you

SandraS: (you can avoid all that clicking)

ChrystalA: Education needs reform at all levels, from the parents to the political policies that affect the system as a whole.

SandraS: you can scroll down to the bottom of the resources

SandraS: and look at Publish Your Writing

MerileneM: I have written on teaching practices in terms of presenting arts/technology lesson plans & follow up reports after the sessions finished. is that what you mean, Sandra

SandraS: and click on Tips for Publishing

SandraS: absolutely, Merilene

SandraS: there are all kinds of publication opportunities

SandraS: go ahead and check out these tips for a sec, and then come on back

SandraS: here's the url

SandraS: http://www.writingproject.org/welcome.csp

MerileneM: great

DonnaRo: can someone give me some ideas of how we can integrate writing into technology

StephaniW: lots of good information

JeanineMH: we had previously talked about blogspots

SandraS: Donna, we just talked about blogs for a bit

SandraS: Yeah, I really like this resource

MerileneM: and wikis, donna

MaryannA: I have a district who is using podcasting. The writing comes in with building the scripts

SandraS: it's chock full of great ideas

SandraS: very cool, Maryann

JeanineMH: podcasting, yeah

SandraS: and digital stories...

ChrystalA: e-pals.com offers a classroom the opportunity to communicate with other classrooms in the USA or around the world through emails.

StephaniW: Jeanie we could incorporate podcasts with our blog

SandraS: ooh, cool idea, Stephanie

JeanineMH: that sounds great!

SandraS: so the really revolutionary core of NWP

JeanineMH: I was just talking about how my ELLs need to speak more!

SandraS: says that school reform needs to come from within the schools

JeanineMH: I'm doing a lot of speaking then writing this year. It is working great!

SandraS: that means teachers

SandraS: and getting the reform done can happen with more publication by teachers

SandraS: of their ideas and practices

MaryannA: I was just reading an article about having ell students produce videos. They have to write and speak.

SandraS: great ideas...

SandraS: digital stories allow them to do voiceovers

StephaniW: is there a specific software or program to make digital stories?

SandraS: Photostory 3 is a free download if you have Windows XP

ChrystalA: yes it's called photo story.

SandraS: a registered copy

BJB2: Join The Art of Storytelling Group!

SandraS: yeah, BJ!

BJB2: lots of resources in the group room

StephaniW: thanks I do

SandraS: I think it's one of the easiest programs to use

SusanR . o O (iMovie for the Mac)

SandraS nods to Susan

SandraS: do you like iMovie, Susan?

BJB2: Glen Bull and Tom Hammond just introduced a new online tool for storytelling

BJB2 . o O (last night)

SandraS: very cool

SandraS: is that resource in the Storytelling group room?

ChrystalA: You can be very creative through imovie.

BJB2: www.DigitalStoryteller.org

SandraS: Wow!

SandraS: can't wait to check that out some more

BJB2: the transcript will be posted to the archives when it's been edited

BJB2: www.tappedin.org/transcripts

MerileneM: yey!!!!

MaryannA: Thanks, looks great

SandraS loves Merilene's enthusiasm!

SandraS: ok, we're winding down towards the end of the hour

SandraS: any final questions...or comments....

SandraS: ideas...

StephaniW: no thank you for all of the ideas and information

JeanineMH: I've taken a lot of ideas from this session! Thanks!

StephaniW: I am going to have to try the digital story making with my students this year.

MaryannA: Thanks, bye

BJB2: I love your enthusiasm too, Sandy!

SandraS: thanks, BJ

BJB2: thanks for leading this discussion

JeanineMH: thank you very much!

SandraS: I appreciate everyone's input

SandraS: thanks so much for attending and sharing....

ChrystalA: Thanks for the resources. Happy Trails!

SandraS: join WriteTalk!

SusanR: Thanks again, Sandra

StephaniW: Thank you!

SusanR: Always a refreshing discussion!

SandraS: have a great evening all!

FredK: Sorry I had to lurk here tonight, but every time I tried a link, TI faded. I will have fun reviewing the transcript.

MerileneM: I'm trying to find some links over at http://www.telepoetics.com (search lesson plans) but I'm too slow. thanks, Sandra.

BJB2: Merilene, maybe you're ready to do another session in TI?

SandraS: what links are you trying to find, Merilene?

SandraS: ooh, yeah....

MerileneM: maybe, bj

BJB2: email me. bjb@tappedin.org

BJB2 hugs goodnight

SandraS: goodnight!

MerileneM: I will, bj. wow, Sandra, you do multitask

SandraS: I love that Poetry and Technology Bridge