

Title of Session: WriteTalk - Wordle and Bubbl.us

Moderator: Sandra Shattuck

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JeffC: Been meaning to talk to you. I'll be lurking most of this session but wanted to share a site with you... for a possible guest speaker next month... it's called "Shmoop" <http://www.shmoop.com> ...absolutely amazing analysis of middle and high school books.

JeffC: and poetry and world history

SandraS: Sounds excellent, Jeff

SandraS: Do you have a contact?

JeffC: I've talked with some people there and they're interested in holding a session here.

SandraS: Oh, cool!

JeffC: I'll write you both tonight to e-introduce you to each other.

SandraS: Lovely!

SandraS: I'll look forward to that.

BJB2: thanks, Jeff

SandraS: Well, shall we get started? Or do you think anyone else is attending, BJ & Jeff?

SandraS: You don't need to join Wordle.

CrystalC: oh ok!

SandraS: And I'll show you how to get an account in Bubbl.

ClaudiaR joined the room.

BJB2: good job, Claudia

SandraS: Hi, Claudia.

CrystalC: ok sounds like a plan!

ClaudiaR: Hello Sandra

SandraS: Welcome to Tapped In!

SandraS: and to WriteTalk!

ClaudiaR: Thank you BJ

ClaudiaR: Thank you Sandra

BJB2: . o O (Claudia is rapidly learning how to navigate this environment, Sandy!)

BJB2: Crystal has participated in discussions before, if I recall correctly

SandraS applauds Claudia

CrystalC: Nope this is my very first time!

BJB2: we usually start all Tapped In events with introductions, so let's start there, Sandy, ok?

SandraS: excellent

BJB2: then you did a good job too, Crystal, finding this room :-)

SandraS applauds both Crystal and Claudia

CrystalC: thanks!

JeffC is on Helpdesk here, in Forest Grove OR, leads K-12 tours and support for teachers who want to create their own classrooms here on Saturday at 11a.m.... and is out the door, afk and lurking.

JeffC: uh... Pacific time.

SandraS: Got it, Jeff -- thanks!

ClaudiaR: Great Thank you

SandraS: I'll start with introductions...I teach literature and writing at the college level in Alabama

ClaudiaR: I live in Houston, Texas and right now I am in my last step of become a teacher.

CrystalC: Hello! I am doing my student teaching this semester in a 3rd grade classroom

in Texas.

SandraS: Thanks, Crystal.

ClaudiaR: I am too!

BJB2: I'm also on tapped In helpdesk and am a retired communication and art teacher

ClaudiaR: I am in a fourth grade classroom

CrystalC: Hey Claudia are you in the QUEST 3 program?

ClaudiaR: Yes, were you in Pasadena last semester?

CrystalC: yes

ClaudiaR: Ok so I know you

SandraS: Is QUEST 3 a Texas program?

ClaudiaR: No, It is really a program in the University of Houston. The last semester

SandraS: Ah, OK -- thanks for explaining.

CrystalC: well not really, it's a education program offered at the University of Houston.

ClaudiaR: It is called Quest 3, but it really is a student teaching experience.

SandraS: I notice that you're doing ESL, Claudia.

CrystalC: don't you mean Teacher Candidate? lol

ClaudiaR: Yes, actually bilingual

SandraS: OK, I'll be able to show you some resources...

SandraS: and Crystal, you list multiple subjects for your discipline

ClaudiaR: Yes Crystal, I am sorry lol

SandraS: any subject area you're especially interested in?

ClaudiaR: language arts

SandraS: excellent!

CrystalC: well I really enjoy Language Arts. More specifically Reading and Spelling.

SandraS: wonderful....

SandraS: let's get started

SandraS: I always begin by talking about the National Writing Project or NWP

CrystalC: ok

SandraS: we'll look at the website in a second, but let me tell you a bit about the project

SandraS: it was founded in 1974 at UC Berkeley

SandraS: it's a professional development project -- like Tapped In --

SandraS: and it's federally funded

SandraS: every year the NWP has to get funding from the government

SandraS: there are about 200 NWP sites all located at colleges and universities

SandraS: and they serve mostly k-12 teachers but there's a really good mix of k-12 and university teachers

SandraS: the NWP has three basic tenets

SandraS: that teachers are the best teachers of other teachers

SandraS: (no canned professional development)

SandraS: that teachers who improve their own writing can teach writing more effectively

SandraS: and that writing is a great learning tool across all subject areas

SandraS: the main program for each site is the summer institute

SandraS: many participants get graduate credit

SandraS: once you attend a summer institute, you become a teacher consultant

SandraS: you can attend conferences, writing retreats

SandraS: it's a fantastic network

SandraS: and the annual conference is always right before the NCTE, National Council

of Teachers of English

SandraS: Any questions so far?

ClaudiaR: No, it is pretty interesting

CrystalC: I agree

SandraS: Great!

SandraS: There are many NWP initiatives: technology, ELL, Reading, Project Outreach (inner city), Rural

SandraS: some of the most creative teachers I know are in the NWP

SandraS: So...let's take a look at the site

SandraS: When you go there, click on the map and see if you can find the NWP site closest to you

SandraS: there should be a link to that site

SandraS: and you can see about applying for the summer institute, if you're interested

SandraS: after you check out the nearest site, try entering a term into the search box...like ELL, or reading....and see what comes up... Then come back here and we'll see what you found.

SandraS: Any questions?

ClaudiaR: Are you going to give us the address?

CrystalC: Is the web address <http://www.nwp.org>

SandraS: Yes!

SandraS: Thanks, Crystal.

ClaudiaR: Thank you

BJB2: . o O (you may need to hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url)

SandraS: So go ahead and visit the site for a bit...

BJB2: that overrides pop up blockers

SandraS: Thanks, BJ

CrystalC: I just tried and the server was down. I'll try again.

SandraS: I just tried and was able to get on...

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

BJB2: me too. Try again, Crystal

CrystalC: ok

ClaudiaR: I am there

SandraS: Great, Claudia!

CrystalC: I don't know what is going on but I am unable to access the website. :(

SandraS: Maybe you have a glitch with your server? But that doesn't make that much sense...

CrystalC: ok I finally got in!!!!

SandraS: Yeah, Crystal!

BJB2: a reminder that all urls will be in your transcript

SandraS: Thanks, BJ, for that reminder....one of the things I love about Tapped In -- that transcript!

BJB2 agrees

CrystalC: you want us to search for a term?

ClaudiaR: That is great!

SandraS: sure...think of something you want to know more about...and search with that term

SandraS: It's a really rich site, Claudia.

SandraS: Claudia and Crystal, are you back here now?

CrystalC: yes very interesting!

SandraS: Great! Since you're both elementary level, you also might want to check out

one of the articles on the front page about fourth-grade teacher Glen Bledsoe -- he uses digital comics in the classroom. That is, his students make them!

ClaudiaR: yes, I just found some interesting things for my ESL students.

SandraS: Here's the link: <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/2811>

SandraS: There are a lot of ESL resources!

SandraS: What did you find, Claudia?

ClaudiaR: Thank you

CrystalC: Ok I just got disconnected but I am back! Comics in the classroom how cool!

SandraS: It's a great way of combining image and text, art and writing...and creativity!

SandraS: Lots of different kinds of literacies...

CrystalC: Yes a very good resource!

ClaudiaR: I found resources to teach my ESL students about writing. Also, I found a book created for NWP Called "Our Book By Us".

SandraS: Excellent!

ClaudiaR: The book has resources in English and Spanish.

SandraS: OK, so now you both know how to get to the National Writing Project.

SandraS: Oh, excellent!

SandraS: At one writing retreat I went to, I worked with another teacher from TX

ClaudiaR: Yes.

SandraS: she developed a family literacy night

CrystalC: I found some good resources on grammar and usage! My students could definitely benefit from that.

SandraS: You can find her article on the NWP site...

SandraS: hang on...

SandraS: voces del corazon

SandraS: <http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/2233>

SandraS: so NWP also publishes The Quarterly online

ClaudiaR: Great

SandraS: they really believe in teachers' writing - especially writing about their practice in the classroom

SandraS: OK, any last questions about NWP before we go on to Wordle and Bubbl.us?

ClaudiaR: No, thank you

CrystalC: Same here.

SandraS: All right....let's start with Wordle

SandraS: It's a pretty new application

SandraS: lots of fun

SandraS: why don't you just visit the website for a couple minutes and then come back...

SandraS: <http://wordle.net>

ClaudiaR: Ok

CrystalC: Ok. I opened a new browser because when I click it from this page it seems to throw me off of the discussion.

SandraS: good idea, Crystal

BJB2: Crystal, you can also hold down the ctrl key when you click on a url so that doesn't happen

CrystalC: ok I will try that as well!

SandraS: OK, are you both back here?

CrystalC: I'm back!

SandraS waves to Crystal

ClaudiaR: Me too

SandraS: Yeah!

SandraS: Did either of you create a Wordle?

CrystalC: No not yet.

ClaudiaR: Yes, I did. I had to try.

SandraS chuckles

SandraS: It's hard to resist...What did you create, Claudia?

BJB2: you can change the font and the color

BJB2 . o O (more frequently a word is used, the larger the word is in the design)

SandraS: Yes, and the shape of the text -- round or square -- the outline, that is.

CrystalC: how cool I just tried!

SandraS applauds Crystal

SandraS: OK, so Wordle will automatically omit more common words such as "the" and "a"

ClaudiaR: Nothing interesting, I just wrote three words, Claudia, write, English and it create something fun with black background. I loved it!

SandraS: Oh, cool!

SandraS: The first Wordle I made was with my blog...you can type in a URL and Wordle will create a word picture.

CrystalC: Thanks! In honor of Valentines Day I wrote the word LOVE.

SandraS: Oh, lovely.

SandraS: So, can you think of how you might use this in the classroom to teach writing and reading?

BJB2: one suggestion that was given during another TI discussion was to write valentine's words

SandraS: Cool!

CrystalC: You can use this to write their weekly spelling words.

BJB2: or write all the students' names and enter the teacher's name several times to make it larger...good to hang on your door

SandraS: I like that one, BJ

SandraS: And I like the weekly spelling words, Crystal!

ClaudiaR: new vocabulary

CrystalC: I really like this tool! really cool.

SandraS: If you look above this text box to the WriteTalk room, you should see a Whiteboard...I have a link to the Wordle blog and there's a posting from a British teacher who used Wordle to teach vocabulary

ClaudiaR: I agree. It is fun

SandraS: I've thought about it as a reading aid...if we're studying a poem, we could cut and paste the text into Wordle and then look at the poem differently

SandraS: You could do that with any text...children's books, websites....

SandraS: And you could take your own writing ... a paper.... and then see what Wordle does with it.

CrystalC: Yes you could, good idea.

SandraS: Jumpstarts some brainstorming and revision.

SandraS: Now, there's one problem with Wordle....

CrystalC: Oh NO!!!!!!!!!!!!

SandraS: I know...

SandraS: there's no censorship in the Wordle gallery

SandraS: that is, anyone who creates a Wordle can post it

ClaudiaR: That is a big problem

SandraS: so you can find inappropriate language

CrystalC: oh yes that is a big problem!

SandraS: The creator of Wordle says he doesn't have time to censor the postings.

BJB2: you can also embed your wordle in a blog or wiki so just your creation shows up

SandraS: But he is also seeing that a lot of teachers want to use it.

SandraS nods to BJ

SandraS: So I think there may be a way eventually to get around this.

SandraS: The teacher in Britain who posted on the blog did not mention this as a problem.

SandraS: So if there's some way just to let students CREATE a wordle without going into the gallery.....

SandraS: It's a very exciting application with lots of possibilities

CrystalC: well that is very true.

SandraS: And if you noticed, there's a quick survey at the top of the Wordle page...so it looks as if they're really trying to see how Wordle is used.

SandraS: If you want to fill out the survey, you could add your voices!

ClaudiaR: Yes I saw it

CrystalC: I did as well.

SandraS: I think BJ's ideas about making a Wordle and then putting it on your door or embedding it in a wiki are great ways to get around the pitfalls.

SandraS: OK, we're getting to the end of the hour, so let me just say something about Bubbl.us

ClaudiaR: I agree

SandraS: This is another free application.

CrystalC: yes I like that idea too!

SandraS: You can sign up for an account -- free.

SandraS: And once you do, you can create your own Bubbles -- which are a great brainstorming tool.

CrystalC: and we all like the word "free"!

SandraS: Absolutely!

ClaudiaR: Yes of course

SandraS: You start with a word

SandraS: then build more words around it

SandraS: link the bubbles with arrows

SandraS: it's a great way for visual learners to think about what they want to write

SandraS: also can be used for revision

SandraS: and group work

SandraS: you can invite others to the Bubbl

SandraS: The website is <http://bubbl.us>

CrystalC: oh wow my kids would really enjoy that!

ClaudiaR: That is awesome. I need that for my ESL students

SandraS: It's great!

SandraS: So they could also share their Bubbbs and talk about their ideas.

SandraS: Lots of possibilities.

SandraS: OK, we're at the end of WriteTalk...Thanks to BJ for superlative facilitating and troubleshooting....and thanks to you both for sharing and attending!

ClaudiaR: Yes, thank for sharing with us!

BJB2 hugs Sandy. Thanks for leading the discussion!

CrystalC: Yes thanks so much!

SandraS: If you join WriteTalk, you'll get announcements of the monthly meetings.

ClaudiaR: Sandra thank you

BJB2: This discussion is once a month. The next WriteTalk is March 12

SandraS: You're welcome!

CrystalC: ok I really learned a lot so I will join!

BJB2: . o O (Sandy is good about reminding us of upcoming discussions)

SandraS: To join the group, just look above this text box.

JeffC: Sandra... do you want me to try and schedule Shmoop for March 12th?

BJB2: do you know how to join, Crystal?

JeffC: or do you have something else in mind already?

SandraS: You'll see the green i -- click on that and join.

SandraS: That would be great, Jeff.

CrystalC: ummm no

JeffC: great

BJB2: Crystal, did you detach your chat?

CrystalC: no

BJB2: ok, look above this chat window at the welcome note

BJB2: scroll down in the welcome note to This is the group room for WriteTalk and click on the green in that sentence

BJB2: you will see the group ID page...join this group and you're done!

SandraS apologizes for having to leave....

SandraS: Thanks all!

ClaudiaR: Thank you again BJ.

CrystalC: ok thanks so much!

BJB2: you're welcome, Claudia. It's been delightful having you both in the discussion

BJB2 waves goodnight.

ClaudiaR: Bye Crystal. I will see you around. I miss those days in our South Houston classroom.