

**Title of Session:** WriteTalk-National Day of Writing

**Moderator:** Sandra Shattuck

**Title of File:** 20091014writetalknatwriteday

**Date:** October 14, 2009

Room: WriteTalk Group

**WilliamGK** joined the room.

**SandraS:** Hi, William.

**WilliamGK:** Hi

**BJB2:** here for WriteTalk, William?

**WilliamGK:** Yes, but I'm kind of new at this.

**SandraS:** About a month old, in Tapped In years -- welcome!

**WilliamGK:** Thanks!

**SandraS:** I'm glad you're here. BJ will announce in a wee bit, and then we'll get started.

**WilliamGK:** Nice

**SandraS:** The usual WriteTalk time is the second Thursday of the month, but this month has been an exception.

**WilliamGK:** Ok

**BJB2:** William, since you're new to Tapped In, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**SandraS:** What grade in middle school do you teach?

**WilliamGK:** looking..

**WilliamGK:** OK. What did I detach from?

**SandraS:** Do you see the pull down menu to the right and above the chat text box?

**WilliamGK:** Yes

**SandraS:** You're detaching from the main room view and giving yourself a larger chat box.

**WilliamGK:** I like it

**BJB2:** you can also go to Actions and select larger text if you're in the bifocal generation as I am!

**SandraS:** I LOVE that larger text!

**BJB2** grins. Me too!

**SandraS:** William, we tend to be a small group, but we're fewer in number than usual this evening.

**SandraS:** We usually start with introductions. Tell what we teach and where. And since you're the newcomer, it would be great if you could tell BJ and me what brings you to WriteTalk.

**BJB2:** I'm a retired art and communication teacher located in Pennsylvania, William.

**SandraS:** I teach literature and writing at the University of Alabama

**WilliamGK:** I can "listen" just fine

**BJB2:** worth a try

**WilliamGK:** Ok Here I go

**BJB2:** we need you to introduce yourself, William

**WilliamGK:** Oh, Sorry I'm a middle school History teacher

**BJB2:** where are you located?

**WilliamGK:** In San Clemente, CA

**BJB2:** ahhh...thanks

**WilliamGK:** I also advise journalism

**SandraS:** And what grade?

**SandraS:** Oh, very cool.

**WilliamGK:** 8th grade

**BJB2:** between your tech problems and Sandy's lag, we're going to be an interesting

group tonight

**WilliamGK:** Should I try to reattach now?

**SandraS:** Yes, that would be fine.

**BJB2:** see if that helps, William

**WilliamGK:** Would that be join?

**JeffC** joined the room.

**AnniqueB** joined the room.

**BJB2:** go to Actions and reattach

**BJB2:** or close the chat and it will automatically attach

**JeffC:** rehi Annique

**BJB2** waves hi to Annique and Jeff

**SandraS:** Hi, Jeff and Annique

**SandraS:** We're just getting started.

**AnniqueB:** Hi

**SandraS:** William is adjusting his technology and I'm dealing with lag, but we're plugging along.

**JeffC:** Annique... double click my name in the Here tab to the left to open private chat with me to continue our conversation if you like.

**SandraS:** Annique, would you like to introduce yourself?

**WilliamGK:** OK, I detached again and now I'm in business

**JeffC** . o O ( the net unplugged? )

**BJB2** cheers for William

**SandraS:** semi-unplugged net

**WilliamGK:** Whew!

**SandraS** applauds William

**AnniqueB:** I'm actually just following Jeff here so I can ask him some general questions about Tapped In. I'm a doctoral student and faculty developer and am just interested in seeing how this online community works. Hope that is ok

**SandraS** hands William some hot chocolate and a cookie

**SandraS:** That's fine, Annique.

**WilliamGK:** Yum, my favorite

**SandraS:** LOL

**AnniqueB:** Jeff - I can't seem to get a private chat going. Can you try from your end?

**JeffC:** right... that's why I suggested holding private chat Annique... your private chat box is hidden by your main window... it's also on your taskbar... double click my name in the Here tab to the left or open it from your task bar.

**JeffC:** are you on a Mac, Annique?

**BJB2** thinks William will fit right in!

**SandraS:** OK, so let me introduce you to the National Writing Project, William.

**WilliamGK:** Cool.

**SandraS:** I'll tell you a bit about it, then we'll visit the website. After that, we'll check out the National Day on Writing from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

**SandraS:** Buckle your seat belt.

**AnniqueB:** I'm on a PC and using Explorer. I'm looking for the tab.

**SandraS:** Just kidding... this is a smooth ride.

**JeffC:** it's not a tab

**JeffC:** it's on your taskbar as a separate java window

**WilliamGK:** Will we travel outside this window?

**SandraS:** The National Writing Project (NWP) started in 1974.

**SandraS:** You'll be clicking on a URL, William.

**SandraS:** It *\*should\** work all right.

**JeffC:** hold the Ctrl key down when clicking

**SandraS:** If we have problems, you can always visit the sites later.

**JeffC:** or else your popup blocker will log you out

**WilliamGK:** OK, but I'm worried about getting sucked into that black hole again.

**JeffC:** or accept popups from tapped in (best)

**SandraS:** I feel your pain...

**SandraS:** We can just talk and leave the sites for later.

**SandraS:** OK, so NWP -- 1974, UC Berkeley

**SandraS:** that's where it started

**SandraS:** it's a federally funded program

**SandraS:** probably the best deal in education

**JeffC:** heck... that's when *\*I\** started at Cal

**SandraS:** And there are about 200 local sites

**WilliamGK:** Hmmm

**SandraS:** housed at universities -- usually an English dept. or a school of education

**SandraS:** Is that a good "hmm" or a not so good "hmm"?

**WilliamGK:** It's a good one *\*wipes crumbs\**

**MarynicGst1** joined the room.

**SandraS:** Lag?

**BJB2:** Hi, Marynic. Welcome

**WilliamGK:** So how can NWP help my students?

**SandraS:** Ah, OK

**SandraS:** sorry....lag is eating up my words

**SandraS:** NWP is a professional development organization with a few basic tenets

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

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

**SandraS:** 3) writing is a powerful learning tool across all disciplines

**WilliamGK:** I like #2

**SandraS:** Yup

**WilliamGK:** And #3

**SandraS:** And the NWP believes in teachers publishing their own experience

**SandraS:** You can attend a summer institute at a writing project site near you

**WilliamGK:** All experiences or just classroom ones?

**SandraS:** Once you attend a summer institute, you are a teacher consultant and can go to writing retreats

**SandraS:** I think all experiences....

**SandraS:** but NWP is focused on the schools

**WilliamGK:** NICE! I like retreats.

**SandraS:** NWP has some great writing retreats

**MarynicGst1:** Oh a writing retreat would be great

**SandraS:** I worked on one that invited teachers who are using technology to teach writing

**WilliamGK:** I wrote a grant once.

**SandraS:** about 20 teachers came to a great place in Nebraska for several days

**SandraS:** and they worked on articles to publish

**SandraS:** Excellent!

**SandraS:** That's a great form of writing to master.

**MarynicGst1:** What kind of articles are they publishing? What is the focus?

**SandraS:** To answer your question about your students...

**SandraS:** Ah, thank you, Marynic...

**SandraS:** Would you like to introduce yourself?

**SandraS:** What do you teach and where?

**SandraS:** We can introduce ourselves again ...

**SandraS:** I teach literature and writing at the University of Alabama

**MarynicGst1:** I am a first year special education teacher resource teacher at a technology magnet school in California

**SandraS:** Great!

**SandraS:** Welcome to WriteTalk, Mary

**WilliamGK:** I'm Bill in San Clemente. I teach 8th grade US History and Journalism.

**SandraS:** William, do you want to introduce yourself again?

**SandraS:** Thanks!

**SandraS:** I just talked about the National Writing Project a bit, and Bill asked how it could help his students.

**SandraS:** I'll answer your question first, Mary, then move on to Bill's.

**SandraS:** The articles varied hugely and were for different audiences. Teachers wrote about blogs and wikis.

**SandraS:** About collaborative writing across the country.

**SandraS:** Writers chose the venue for publication.

**SandraS:** But the NWP has a very rich collection of articles on their website.

**SandraS:** The Quarterly is their publication and they've just recently stopped the hard

copy publication.

**SandraS:** Bill, do you think you can try accessing the website?

**WilliamGK:** I will try.

**SandraS:** I'll give you both the URL, and if you click on it, just hold down the CTRL key so you don't get popups.

**SandraS:** You can click on the map in the upper right corner and find a site near you.

**WilliamGK:** I'm mac. Same thing? CTRL?

**SandraS:** Command key

**SandraS:** You can use the search box

**WilliamGK:** Do you want me to click the link in Whiteboard?

**SandraS:** So, for instance, Bill, you could type in "journalism" and see what you get.

**SandraS:** No, hang on

**SandraS:** Here's the URL

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

**SandraS:** Click on it and check it out for a couple minutes and then come back here.

**WilliamGK:** Let me see what happens.

**SandraS** crosses her fingers.

**MarynicGst1:** Has the project ever done a collaborative project - teachers and students and then published?

**SandraS:** That's a great question

**WilliamGK:** I never left. If I click out of TI I've been dropped from the session, so I can check it out later.

**SandraS:** A lot of Writing Project teachers encourage their students to publish on blogs and wikis, for instance

**WilliamGK:** I like that idea a lot.



**SandraS:** OK, Bill. You'll have the URL on the transcript that will be emailed to you after this session.

**SandraS:** Mary, are you back yet?

**WilliamGK:** Yeah, and I'll learn how to navigate around here better for future sessions.

**MarynicGst1:** Yes, I will check out the website after session

**SandraS:** Great! I'm glad you'll come back -- in spite of technical glitches!

**SandraS:** OK, so any questions about the National Writing Project?

**BJB2 . o O** ( Marynic, as a guest you won't get a transcript )

**BJB2:** but if you type your email address I will send you a copy

**BJB2 . o O** ( membership is free )

**SandraS:** Thank you, BJ!

**SandraS:** OK, the next thing is the National Day on Writing.

**MarynicGst1:** I wrote down the web address... thanks :)

**SandraS:** All your students can participate in this, and so can you.

**WilliamGK:** What is that?

**SandraS:** NCTE, or the National Council of Teachers of English, introduced legislation for a National Day on Writing for 20 Oct.

**SandraS:** The House passed the legislation this past June

**SandraS:** and the Senate just passed it on 8 Oct.

**WilliamGK:** Are there topics or prompts for the students or is it just whatever?

**SandraS:** So it's official...we have a National Day on Writing!

**BJB2** does a happy dance

**WilliamGK:** I like them.

**SandraS:** Any kind of writing...it's to recognize how much writing we all do every day.

**SandraS** joins the happy dance

**SandraS**: And NCTE set up a National Gallery of Writing

**WilliamGK**: They support scholastic journalism too.

**SandraS**: yes, they do

**SandraS**: and it will go live on 20 Oct.

**SandraS**: People can form Local Galleries

**SandraS**: I formed one for our Writing Center here at the university

**SandraS**: But there are close to 2,000 Local Galleries, I think

**SandraS**: and then folks can just submit to the National Gallery if they wish.

**SandraS**: I'll give you the URL

**MarynicGst1**: Is the idea to share students' writing through the internet?

**SandraS**: <http://www.ncte.org/dayonwriting>

**SandraS**: yes...

**SandraS**: well, it's really to showcase all kinds of writing

**SandraS**: NCTE wanted to demonstrate the huge diversity of writing we do

**WilliamGK**: I'm going to look super smart tomorrow by knowing all this.

**SandraS**: lab reports, memos, grocery lists, texting,

**SandraS** bows to William

**SandraS**: Tapped In aims to please!

**SandraS**: You can both submit writing to the National Gallery!

**SandraS**: a poem you have stashed under your bed

**SandraS**: a blog posting

**SandraS**: a favorite recipe

**SandraS:** a reflection on your students....

**WilliamGK:** Our writing and theirs, right?

**SandraS:** Yes.

**SandraS:** Everybody can participate...

**SandraS:** You can see examples of submissions on the NCTE website

**WilliamGK:** I thought you might say "write"

**SandraS:** There are also Partner Galleries with organizations like Google and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

**SandraS:** LOL

**SandraS:** I think this is an immensely exciting event, especially since this is the first year for the National Day on Writing.

**WilliamGK:** Ok, I'm going to check it out.

**SandraS:** Do you both see ways to ask students to submit writing?

**SandraS:** The deadline is coming up....

**SandraS:** You could create your own Local Gallery just for your class, for instance.

**WilliamGK:** I'm going to talk to my colleagues about it.

**SandraS:** Cool!

**SandraS:** It's a very easy interface to use.

**SandraS:** It might be too close to 20 Oct. to create a Local Gallery -- but you can always submit to the National one.

**MarynicGst1:** I think you could even create a gallery and then have a comment log beneath the work for further writing

**WilliamGK:** They have short attention spans. What should I tell them in 20 words or less?

**BJB2** . o O ( grins...your colleagues or your students, William? )

**SandraS:** You mean your colleagues...or your students?

**SandraS:** LOL

**BJB2** laughs

**WilliamGK:** My colleagues, of course!

**SandraS:** But of course!

**BJB2** nods solemnly

**SandraS:** Tell them this is a once-in-a lifetime event

**SandraS:** Historic

**SandraS:** and they can become published writers

**SandraS:** and it's easy

**SandraS:** The first submission I had here was from a biology professor

**WilliamGK:** Alright! And I love the transcripts TI provides. That way I don't have to write this down.

**SandraS:** Very interesting 5-page paper about an endangered fish

**SandraS:** Absolutely, William!

**SandraS:** Here's the link to the actual Gallery of Writing

**SandraS:** <http://galleryofwriting.org/>

**SandraS:** The first URL I gave you from NCTE explains about the National Day on Writing

**WilliamGK:** What are the criteria for publication? Or is there enough room for all the submissions?

**SandraS:** and offers writing tips and ideas

**SandraS:** Yes, there's room

**SandraS:** And there's a set of guidelines

**SandraS:** <http://galleryofwriting.org/guidelines.php>

**WilliamGK:** Is it all appropriate reading for middle school age students?

**SandraS:** basically no profanity or inappropriate material

**SandraS:** all ages will be participating

**SandraS:** Yes!

**SandraS:** appropriate for elementary school children, too

**WilliamGK:** What happens after the deadline?

**SandraS:** The site stays up forever, I think.

**SandraS:** I know they're keeping it up for at least a year

**SandraS:** Plenty of time to browse the selections

**SandraS:** It can continue to be a great teaching tool

**SandraS:** Very cool for students to be able to read their published words online

**WilliamGK:** So, it's a snapshot in time. Not continually updated?

**SandraS:** I think I read that people will be able to continue contributing, but I'm not sure.

**MarynicGst1:** So when you say published... what exactly do you mean?

**SandraS:** Published on the web

**SandraS:** that is, the writing will be published in this National Gallery of Writing

**SandraS:** No hard copy, as far as I know...

**SandraS:** Any other questions or thoughts?

**WilliamGK:** Indexed by topic, genre...what?

**MarynicGst1:** Do the authors get credit for their contributions

**SandraS:** Absolutely! And they retain copyright.

**SandraS:** We're winding down towards the end of the hour.

**WilliamGK:** Wow, time flies in here.

**SandraS:** If you become a member of this group, you'll receive an email announcing the next meeting.

**MarynicGst1:** Excellent.... I'm very grateful for your time

**BJB2:** The next WriteTalk discussion will be on November 12

**SandraS:** We USUALLY meet the second Thursday of the month.

**WilliamGK:** Thank you all very much.

**SandraS:** 7-8pm central time, 5-6 pacific

**BJB2:** Thanks for your participation, William and Marynic

**SandraS:** Thank you for coming to WriteTalk and sharing your experience!

**MarynicGst1:** This was a great experience for me thank you

**SandraS:** To join the group, just look at the Room View above the chat window

**SandraS:** Mary, if you join TappedIn, you can then join this group

**SandraS:** and create your own office

**SandraS:** Any other questions or thoughts, Mary?

**SandraS:** Thanks to BJ for her impeccable facilitating!

**MarynicGst1:** I am going to check out the websites right now... thank you so much

**BJB2** hugs Sandy.

**SandraS:** OK, then....BJ, take care!!!!

**SandraS** hugs BJ

**BJB2:** you too, dearheart

**SandraS:** have a good evening!