

Title of Session: WriteTalk
Moderator: Sandra Shattuck
Title of File: 20031009wt
Date: October 9, 2003

Room: After School Online

AllenBe: Hi BJB, I am **AllenBe**, new to the Tapped In 2, looking to participate in the 6pm Writing Group

BJB: Hi, Allen. Welcome!

AllenBe: thanks

AllenBe: how do I go to the "room" to participate?

BJB: Allen, do you see Featured Passageways above this chat window?

SandraS joined the room.

BJB waves hi to Sandy

JeffC joined the room.

JeffC waves

BJB: Allen is here to join your discussion, Sandy

SandraS: Wonderful. Glad you're here, Allen

JeffC: Great Allen.

BJB: did you want to meet in your office, Jeff?

JeffC: Yes

BJB: o O (so Allen can download your paper?)

AllenBe: thank you...

JeffC: I've also got it online... but yes, that's a must.

BJB: we're going to try this again, Allen...

BJB: Jeff is going to go to his office

BJB waves bye to Jeff

BJB: when you see him leave...

JeffC left the room.

BJB: click on the online tab to the left of this chat window

BJB: then single click on **JeffC** and the door icon at the bottom

SandraS: I've also changed the AAMU WP room to open

SandraS: that way anyone can join

SandraS: and the paper is a featured file there

SandraS: so also are some guidelines

BJB: good idea

SandraS: would it be ok to meet in AAMU WP office?

SandraS: or too confusing for newbies?

SandraS: or Allen

BJB: we'll have to get Allen to join the group...

BJB: and we're not having much success getting him to join Jeff yet

SandraS: he could just go there if it's open, right?

SandraS: ah...

AllenBe: I don't want to be trouble...I am happy to listen (day one)...

BJB: Allen, did you see how to join Jeff?

SandraS left the room.

AllenBe: sorry, missed joining Jeff

BjB: Allen, click on the online tab

BjB: do you see it, Allen?

AllenBe: yep

BjB: single click on **JeffC**

BjB: then click on the door icon at the bottom

AllenBe left the room.

Room: Jeff Cooper's Office

SandraS: following your suggestion, Jeff

SandraS: and that way folks can go to the office and get your paper

AllenBe joined the room.

SandraS: also get peer reviewer guidelines

JeffC: Hey! You made it! Excellent

SandraS: hey allen

JeffC pats Allen on the back.

AllenBe: thank you...

JeffC: We can get the show started now.

SandraS: BJ, do you want to do your usual ASO spiel, or should we be a bit more informal?

JeffC: Did you teach at Davis, Allen? I went to Berkeley myself.

AllenBe: taught at UC Santa Cruz, but now live in Davis

JeffC misguessed you taught there.

SandraS: happy west coast people...

JeffC: I think Santa Cruz is the only school in America that has a mascot which rivals ours for weirdness. We're the Pacific University Boxers...

AllenBe: yes, we now have Arnold for gov...

SandraS: banana slug

JeffC nods

SandraS: I love the Santa Cruz mascot

JeffC: Ours is extremely strange... I'll show you...

AllenBe: yeah Banana slugs

SandraS listens

JeffC: I always thought the banana slugs were the most amazing thing. They didn't have a football (but had an excellent frisbee), and had to create a mascot.

SandraS: and Jeff?

JeffC: I'm Education Technology Specialist for the College of Education at Pacific University. I taught English in (mostly high school) California for a number of years... which turned me to computers as a way of motivating and facilitating collaborative learning.

SandraS: BJ, do you want to introduce yourself?

JeffC: We're here tonight to discuss a paper I've written... originally for the Ikarus Seminar I was both a student and moderator for, conducted earlier this year.

BJ waves. I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

SandraS: all right

SandraS: a quick outline

SandraS: I'll say a bit about WriteTalk and the Writing Project and then we'll turn it over to Jeff

SandraS: and start talking about his piece

SandraS: Allen, this is the first time WriteTalk is meeting

SandraS: it's an idea that came out of the AAMU Writing Project

SandraS: (AAMU - Alabama A&M)

SandraS: which is one of 175 National Writing Project sites

AllenBe: thank you, I'm listening...

SandraS: NWP (National Writing Project) started 30 yrs ago

SandraS: in Berkeley

SandraS: idea is that teachers of writing become better teachers if they are better writers

SandraS: and that writing is a way to learn, therefore an excellent pedagogy across all curricula

SandraS: National Writing Project is federally funded

SandraS: always hosted at a university site

SandraS: focuses mostly on K-12 teachers

SandraS: I participated last summer in the AAMU summer invitational

SandraS: so...

AllenBe: gotcha...agree...

SandraS: WriteTalk is specifically an online writing group

SandraS: focusing on professional writing

SandraS: that is,

SandraS: we all write for different areas of our professional concerns

SandraS: and we often get little feedback

SandraS: the lesson plan we'd like to submit to an online lesson plan bank?

HaroldJ joined the room.

SandraS: the grant we're submitting?

SandraS: the annual report?

SandraS: these are all pieces of writing that we could probably improve with feedback

SandraS: Hi, Harold

SandraS: would you like to introduce yourself?

HaroldJ: I am a student at U of H.

SandraS: Jeff has graciously

SandraS: offered to be the first writer

SandraS: to be reviewed

HaroldJ: I am doing a course on reading and writing.

SandraS: his paper on educational MUVES

SandraS: is available here in his office as a .doc file

SandraS: you can download it and scan it if you want

JeffC: Allen, you may want to download my paper. It is in the above frame (you will need to download). It's called EducationalMUVES2. There is also an online version at <http://education.ed.pacificu.edu/lab/EducationalMUVES2.htm> I believe I was part of the Bay Area Writing Project when I did my first listserv project with my 9th graders at

Richmond High School. That is quite a story in itself... and represents the turning point in my career...

JeffC: Hi Harold and everyone... I'm going to give everyone a couple minutes to download the paper (so you may edit it "track changes" and insert comments as you desire.

JeffC: But I need to run for about 3 minutes...

JeffC afks

AllenBe: should I download it later and just observe/listen for now...

SandraS: up to you Allen

SandraS: whatever works for you

SandraS: Harold, we've done introductions

AllenBe: simple is good, I'll listen for now

SandraS: Allen is retired teacher and writer

SandraS: BJ - art teacher, Tapped In person extraordinaire

SandraS: I teach English at Alabama A&M University

SandraS: Jeff is the first person to offer some writing for peer reviewing

SandraS: WriteTalk is an online writing group

SandraS: specifically for supporting our professional writing

SandraS: we often get little feedback for that kind of writing

SandraS: we'll wait for Jeff to return

SandraS: but even if you have not read his paper

SandraS: you can still ask questions

SandraS: often helps writer to clarify position/ideas

SandraS: I am a firm believer that talking about your writing helps immensely

HaroldJ: I was actually looking for something on elementary reading.

SandraS: aha!

SandraS: if you want to search Tapped In for that, you can click on the Search tab

SandraS: then search with those terms

SandraS: there are several groups in Tapped In that deal with elementary education

HaroldJ: I think I'll do that. Goodbye.

SandraS waves bye to Harold

SandraS: what kind of writing do you like to do, Allen?

BJ: There are also several events on the calendar for elem reading, Harold

HaroldJ left the room.

AllenBe: just got back from Jeff's paper

SandraS: great, Allen

SandraS: and Jeff is back!

SandraS: Jeff, Harold was looking for elementary reading stuff, so he's left us.

AllenBe: I write in a journal almost daily...

SandraS: wonderful

AllenBe: and lots of letters

AllenBe: snail mail and email...

SandraS: quickly becoming a lost art!

SandraS: snail mail, that is

AllenBe: I draw pictures on the envelopes!!!

SandraS: all right!

SandraS: BJ, you still with us?

BJ nods

SandraS: all right...I wanted to ask what kind of writing you do/ are interested in?

BJ: I do the writing for the Tapped In newsletter and some of the discussion blurbs for the calendar

SandraS: excellent writing, I might add

BJ blushes

SandraS: Jeff, you ready to proceed?

JeffC: ok... has everyone downloaded the document?

SandraS: keydoke...maybe a way to start would be for you to talk a bit about the genesis of your paper

SandraS: what you'd like to do with the paper/publish???

SandraS: and then we can go into specifics

JeffC: Sure... let's start in Ikarus.

SandraS listens

JeffC: It was an online seminar, in Europe... hundreds of participants, and I was the lone student/moderator.

SandraS: ???

JeffC: The seminar was in online learning, virtual learning environments, constructivism.

SandraS: no other students?

JeffC: I was both a student and teacher in this seminar.

SandraS: moderators?

SandraS: ah...

JeffC: There were three hundred students, 15 moderators.

SandraS: ok

JeffC: They used an interface called "moodle" ... is anyone here familiar with it?

SandraS: nope

AllenBe: nope

SandraS . o O (cross between a poodle and a MOO?)

JeffC: Well... it has some very nice features, and some features that need work.

JeffC: It's a Virtual Learning Environment... but could be a Virtual Learning Community.

AllenBe: listening

JeffC: As could many things.

SandraS also listens

JeffC: If you are familiar with VLEs such as WebCt... you know that there are a number of platforms that support distance learning.

SandraS: yes

SandraS: Blackboard...

JeffC: WebCT, Blackboard, etc. offer a sophisticated interface, many tools, support... and are also very pricey. They are what I call Virtual Learning Environments because they support individual classes. When the class ends, collaboration between the participants ceases.

BJ: I'm involved in something called Web Crossings

JeffC: There is no real interfacing with any students or people outside of those closed classrooms. They also have the look and feel of a cubicled environment, insofar as the Designers tools take you from one window to another to perform tasks.

JeffC: There are many positives to VLEs.

JeffC: But I started what appears to be negatives, and I don't really want to do that.

SandraS: good point

JeffC: VLEs are important tools that many appreciate, and as tools they serve definite purposes.

SandraS: what is your purpose in writing this paper?

JeffC: And there are many free interfaces that schools may use, to support student and teacher interaction.

JeffC: This paper explores the next level of VLEs, namely Virtual Learning Communities, and the possibilities for improved interactions and community building.

JeffC: VLCs have something beyond the immediate class available.

JeffC: Starting with MOOs (MUDs Object Oriented), there have been a number of educational virtual environments over the years.

JeffC: Cal State Northridge, Penn State, many others all have their own MOOs.

SandraS: you wouldn't call a MOO a VLC?

JeffC: Primarily text-based interfaces, they allowed users to build their own offices, objects, etc.

JeffC: Yes... a MOO could very well be a VLC.

JeffC: In fact... most are.

JeffC: Because... people remain and sustain the environment over time.

JeffC: I have been involved with Tapped In since 1997.

JeffC: But, I would feel uncomfortable saying I've been a member of WebCT since 2000... because the meaning would be much different.

SandraS: ok, i'm going to refer to your paper, Jeff

JeffC: I have developed personal and professional relationships here. Go ahead, please.

SandraS: is your purpose to convince current VLE users to use VLC's?

SandraS: or is it to discuss the difference between the two?

JeffC: Those would definitely represent two purposes of the paper.

SandraS: ok, so you'd have to then define the features of each

SandraS: which is something you already do

JeffC: I think discussing the differences (and similarities) helps define the environment/community themes.

SandraS: I agree

JeffC: I could put more up front about it... define my terms...

SandraS: that's another question i have

SandraS: you've got a fluency with technical vocabulary

SandraS: that might impede some of your readers

SandraS: how would you deal with that?

SandraS: or are you assuming a tech fluent reader?

JeffC: What I'm trying to do is convince people to become members of the community. I assume a professional educator... with a wide gamut of tech competencies.

JeffC: I do Helpdesk here. I have helped hundreds of teachers and students become acclimated over the years.

SandraS: AHA!

SandraS: this is powerful experience

BJ: I think one of the issues you point out is sustainability of the community, Jeff

JeffC: Yes... I have motives.

SandraS: but none of it appears in your paper

JeffC: Good point.

SandraS: I agree BJ

SandraS: sustainability is at the heart of my MOO experiences

SandraS: how one builds community.

SandraS: I mean, one of the ways you can establish your credibility

SandraS: is to tell us the story of your helpdesk experience

SandraS: that is.

JeffC: Yes... that is why I really am sad that Tapped In 1 doesn't exist. And frankly, I'm a little disappointed in myself for not spending more time at Diversity University, another MUVE (Multi-User Virtual Environment ... acronyms evolve over time).

SandraS: what are the stories that move you?

JeffC: Helpdesk stories? Well... of course, there are many.

SandraS: and, What are your motives? that you mentioned before

JeffC: I think my most important motive is I really enjoy helping people.

JeffC: I mean... yeah it would be nice to make money... but... I've helped many people become acclimated here.

SandraS: ok, so back to your paper. what are your motives for writing the paper...

JeffC: And at the old tapped in... basically... getting them comfortable... helping them find things, other people, groups.

JeffC: Originally the major purpose was for credit with the Ikarus Seminar.

JeffC: That was my final individual project.

SandraS: you've received the credit, right?

JeffC: We had explored several VLEs within groups, and wrote collaborative papers.

SandraS: so if that original purpose is finished...

SandraS: or accomplished, what purpose does your paper now have?

JeffC: I invited several members here... but there was a lot of friction within the seminar, because they wanted everyone to remain within the moodle environment, and this was outside.

JeffC: The paper now needs to support my next presentation of Tapped In to my College of Education. I need to convince the faculty that this is a great place to be.

JeffC: So... what should I start with... dancing text?

SandraS: all right.....very clear audience.... very clear purpose

SandraS: and you know your audience well

JeffC nods

SandraS: what would hook them?

JeffC: yes and no... that's actually part of my point here.

SandraS: ah, so the audience is faculty in the College of Education?

JeffC: I am on staff... I'm not really in the faculty circle, and only really know a few of the professors. I'm still not really helping or working with quite a few of them. Yes, the audience now will be for the COE.

SandraS: and the presentation will be written? oral?

JeffC: Because, if I can present a compelling case, I hope to have them adopt TI for communication and hopefully, community purposes.

JeffC: It will be hands on in my lab.

SandraS: ah....

JeffC: I'll bring them all online... get them registered... offices... the grand tour I hope.

SandraS: would you want them to read your piece beforehand?

JeffC: And... the paper is just part of this presentation. I don't know... what do you think?

SandraS: depends again on audience

SandraS: if you have reluctant folk

JeffC: Allen... you were COE faculty, what is your take on all this so far?

SandraS thanks Jeff for including others in conversation

AllenBe: have not read the paper...so just listening

JeffC: That's ok... feel free to join in.

AllenBe: ok

SandraS: BJ? any thoughts?

JeffC: What do you think of Tapped In?

JeffC: How I should present it to COE faculty?

AllenBe: this day one for me of TI...

JeffC: So... how do you like it so far?

AllenBe: trippy...the virtual environment...

JeffC: Let me show you what I'm talking about with community, because it relates to my paper.

AllenBe: I like the interactivity...

JeffC: Allen... I'd like you to do me a favor.

AllenBe: ok

JeffC: Please click the "Me" tab above, and then click the link "Create an Office"

BJ: I think you'll need to do more than give the tour...

AllenBe: will this remove me from our room?

JeffC: Don't worry.

AllenBe: ok

JeffC: I agree BJ.

JeffC: Did you create your office, Allen?

SandraS: While Jeff walks Allen through the office creation, I'll say I agree with BJ.

BJ: it takes more than one visit to TI to be comfortable in the environment...even with people who are good with tech

JeffC: It's not becoming comfortable that is my goal here.

AllenBe left the room.

SandraS: ooh>>>>

SandraS: allen made his office>>>>

JeffC left the room.

BJ: why should your professors come here, Jeff?

SandraS: yeah...

SandraS: good question, BJ

SandraS: Jeff is in Allen's new office

BJ waits for Allen and Jeff to come back

SandraS waits also

SandraS: looks like Jeff is helping Allen decorate

SandraS: BJ, do you have any writing you want to submit for the next WriteTalk?

BJ: Our first assignment was to use the 6 degrees of separation to form links with the other participants

SandraS: that is soooooo cool

SandraS: great idea

BJ nods. Want me to submit my writing for that for next time?

SandraS: up to you....

SandraS: would be cool

BJ: I'm always open to constructive criticism

SandraS: way cool...

SandraS: I do believe that most of us don't have outlets for sharing professional writing

SandraS: do you agree?

BJ: yes, I do agree.

SandraS: we didn't stay as on track with Jeff as I thought....

SandraS: but he seemed to need to talk about other stuff

SandraS: also, all part of the process

SandraS: sometimes talking about something ancillary

SandraS: hones the writing that needs to get done

SandraS: I tend to be pretty on track when it comes to writing and talking about writing

JeffC joined the room.

SandraS: Hi, Jeff

BJ: I think the focusing is very important

SandraS: yes, I do too

SandraS: I'm going to have to book

SandraS: but when Jeff gets back

SandraS: I'd like to wrap up

BJ: ok

AllenBe joined the room.

SandraS: got it

JeffC joined the room.

BJ: welcome back, Allen

SandraS: Hi, Allen

AllenBe: thank you

JeffC thinks that Allen is getting the hang of it.

SandraS: Cool

JeffC: Now... what is my purpose?

SandraS: Yes, that's the question, Jeff.

SandraS: but I think you already answered it

SandraS: to convince College of Education folk to use Tapped In as communication/community

SandraS: question was how to present

SandraS: both BJ and I thought you needed more than hands on lab

SandraS: and paper would be good preparation for lab

JeffC: My short term goal is to get COE faculty involved here. Longer term, and indeed, I hope importantly so collaboratively, is to get students and educators from different universities to collaborate.

SandraS: especially if you have any technophobic faculty

JeffC: And I'm wondering if I shouldn't emphasize that more in both my paper and presentation. Or... something else.

JeffC: Most are

SandraS: giving them the theory may seduce them a bit into the virtual environment

BJ: I think you also have to convince faculty why they should use TI...what would their benefits be

JeffC: or scare them away

SandraS: depends on faculty

JeffC: Make a sales pitch?

SandraS: at any rate, I think you could revise the paper to be a sales pitch to a range of people

SandraS: define VLEs/VLCs

SandraS: refer to Blackboard, WebCT

SandraS: interfaces that teachers might already know

JeffC: Well... the trouble is... a sales pitch to faculty needs to cover different things than presentation to others.

SandraS: for example?

JeffC: Well... I'm told it is death to mention the issue of money, or adjunct professors (distance education), etc. to faculty.

SandraS: hmmm...

SandraS: but you're concentrating on VLCs as mode of collaboration, eh?

JeffC: But... there are many issues.

JeffC: Yes

SandraS: mebbe keep focus there

JeffC: nods... that was my intention.

SandraS: cool

JeffC: But... it's more than collaboration... it's community.

SandraS: ah...

BJ agrees with Sandy....industry wants people who can work in collaborative teams

SandraS: so beyond the 3 concentric circles/Venn diagram?

JeffC: I'm hoping to have more than three... absolutely... of course that diagram could/should be much larger, but you have to start somewhere.

SandraS: ok, I hate to call a halt, but I need to jet and would like to wrap up a bit

SandraS: If you had one question to pose to us, Jeff, what would it be?

JeffC: Thanks Sandra.

JeffC: Would you be willing to insert comments into my .doc and post them back here?

JeffC: Or to the AAMU Room perhaps?

AllenBe: yes

SandraS: sure

SandraS: post to your office probably makes more sense

JeffC: Or even email me coops@pacificu.edu

JeffC: I appreciate that.

SandraS: you would like all members here to do that, eh?

JeffC: Sure

BJ: Thanks, Sandy.

SandraS: Thanks Jeff, for offering your writing.

SandraS: I learned a good bit and enjoyed it.

JeffC: Thanks for reading it and the great comments.

SandraS: Thanks, Allen for participating.

AllenBe: and thank you for setting me up in an office!

JeffC: And Allen... welcome TO TAPPED In!

SandraS: Thanks, BJ, for all your help!

SandraS: Goodnight, all.

AllenBe: thanks all

SandraS waves bye.