

**Title of Session:** Language Arts Forum

**Moderator:** Sandra Shattuck

**Title of File:** 20050615langarts

**Date:** June 15, 2005

Room: After School Online

**BJB2:** Sandy has offered to lead this Language Arts Discussion

**TanaMo:** sounds great

**SandraS:** did y'all introduce yourselves yet?

**BJB2:** before we begin, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and then click on DETACH

**KathyAP** joined the room.

**TanaMo:** no we haven't

**BJB2:** Intros are next on the list, Sandy'

**BJB2:** Hi, Kathy. Welcome

**SandraS** apologizes for getting ahead of herself...

**BJB2:** everyone please give a brief introduction telling us where you are located and what you teach

**BJB2:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

**SarahRB:** Atlanta, Ga, Grade 7 English

**TanaMo:** Hi I am a kindergarten teacher in Texas

**SandraS:** I teach writing/literature in Huntsville AL, university

**KathyAP:** Hello, I am Kathy, I teach health occupations in Flowery branch Ga

**SandraS:** Welcome, all!

**SandraS:** I'd like to start by letting y'all know about a great resource

**SandraS:** it's a professional development resource almost as good as Tapped In!

**BJB2** listens intently

**SandraS:** We can spend a little time talking about this resource and then move on to some topics that you might suggest.

**KathyAP:** Great to know, I am just checking this out for an assignment for my masters program, but it looks like it could be a great resource

**SandraS:** Great, Kathy!

**SandraS:** The resource is the National Writing Project

**SarahRB:** tell us how to get involved!

**SandraS:** I'll post the URL and you can visit for a minute...then come on back here

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

**BJB2:** hold the ctrl key down on your keyboard as you click on the url if you have a pop up blocker

**SandraS:** Thanks, BJ

**SandraS:** Everybody back here?

**BJB2** . o O ( I always learn wonderful things from all the TI events I attend )

**SandraS:** I do, too

**SandraS:** Tana and Sarah, are you ready to hear more about the NWP?

**TanaMo:** yes, it sounds good

**SandraS:** great! let's see if we can find Sarah....

**TanaMo:** she is probably checking out the site

**BJB2** pokes Sarah

**SandraS:** ha!

**SandraS** . o O ( BJ always pokes very gently )

**BJB2** nods solemnly

**SandraS:** NWP has been around for about 30 years

**SandraS:** started at UC Berkeley

**SandraS:** there are 3 basic tenets

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

**SandraS:** 2) teachers who improve their own writing are more effective teachers

**SandraS:** 3) writing is a way to learn for all subject areas

**SandraS:** NWP has about 190 sites around the nation

**SarahRB:** sorry about that...signed up for their email newsletter

**SandraS:** (and Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands)

**SandraS:** oh, excellent Sarah...it's a phenomenal resources

**SandraS:** I've gotten lots for my teaching just from the newsletter

**SandraS:** so the 190 sites are at colleges, but the bulk of participants are K-12 teachers

**SandraS:** the core project for each site is the Summer Institute

**SarahRB:** I have recruited many teachers connected with various writing projects for a video production I worked on. I am very impressed with the organization

**SandraS:** for instance, our summer institute at Alabama A&M University is currently having its summer institute

**SandraS:** wow!

**SandraS:** Sarah, please tell us more about this video

**SarahRB:** it was a professional development series for language arts teachers K-12 called Envisioning Literature, produced for Annenberg/CPB

**SandraS:** sounds excellent

**SarahRB:** the tapes are available for free via satellite and I along with some colleagues wrote a lot of the online ancillary materials

**SarahRB:** web site address coming...

**TanaMo:** what's the website

**SandraS** nods

**TanaMo**: oh ok

**SandraS** . o O ( this is why I love Tapped In....I always learn so much! )

**BJB2** agrees and wonders if Sarah would like to lead a future discussion on the project

**SandraS**: oooh, excellent idea!

**BJB2**: if you're interested, Sarah, email me at [bjb@tappedin.org](mailto:bjb@tappedin.org) and we can discuss dates and times

**SandraS** . o O ( Sarah is still retrieving url... )

**SarahRB**: [www.learner.org/envisioningliterature/](http://www.learner.org/envisioningliterature/)

**SandraS**: Tana, you know you'll have a transcript of this talk emailed to you?

**TanaMo**: yes I know

**TanaMo**: thanks

**SandraS**: this is soooo cool....I can give this resource to the teachers in our summer institute

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

**SarahRB**: the project was based on Dr. Judith Langer's research from CELA in ALBANY, <http://cela.albany.edu>

**SandraS**: you're there with teachers from all grade levels and all subject matters

**SandraS**: excellent, Sarah...I'm looking forward to finding out more...I'll finish my spiel on NWP and then we can talk about the literature project, if y'all want to do that

**TanaMo**: yes

**SandraS**: at our SI participants get \$1000 stipend

**SandraS**: but that varies from site to site

**SandraS**: we've got 14 participants

**SandraS**: 3 special ed/learning disabled

**SarahRB:** the actual project pays the 1,000?

**SandraS:** 2 high school, one math, one science

**SandraS:** yes.

**SarahRB:** wow!

**SandraS:** each site has a different stipend, different process

**SandraS:** our stipend might be higher than some

**SandraS:** but once you go through a Summer Institute, you become what's called a Teacher Consultant

**SarahRB:** it's nice teachers are being compensated for professional development

**SandraS** agrees wholeheartedly with Sarah

**SandraS:** when you become a TC, you can then participate in any NWP program

**SandraS:** for instance, writing retreats in Santa Fe in the summer...

**SandraS:** wonderful

**SarahRB:** is there any connection to the IB program in New Mexico with the NWP writing programs in Santa Fe?

**SandraS:** IB program?

**SarahRB:** International Baccalaureate

**SandraS:** I don't think so...

**SandraS:** Santa Fe has Sunrise Springs, a beautiful resort

**SandraS:** and that's where the writing retreats are held

**SandraS:** but for instance, this year, we're doing a Professional Writing Retreat on Writing and Technology

**SandraS:** that will be at a lodge in Nebraska

**SarahRB:** are there ways to use NWP as a resource during the school year, if we haven't yet participated in the summer institute?

**SandraS:** one of the main points that NWP makes is that school reform needs to come from the inside, from teachers

**SandraS:** Yes, you can use the resources on the website and also use the publications

**SandraS:** The Voice is the newsletter, The Quarterly is a journal with all teachers as audience

**SandraS:** both publications are online

**SarahRB:** how do you become a summer institute participant?

**SandraS:** find a site near you...

**SandraS:** there's a map on the website

**TanaMo:** 190 locations right

**SandraS:** yup!

**SandraS:** let's go see what sites are near both of you.....

**TanaMo:** I have already found one

**SarahRB:** just found it...thanks

**TanaMo:** they are mostly located at Universities

**SandraS:** yes, they are all located at universities

**SandraS:** I think it works out really well, because you get education schools involved

**SandraS:** and great k-12-university collaborations

**SandraS:** each summer institute advertises for participants and you just apply

**SandraS:** if you wanted to find out more about the NWP site near you, just call up the director and see if you can talk with him/her

**SandraS:** I did my first summer institute in 2003

**SandraS:** and I just keep getting more and more involved

**TanaMo:** that's awesome

**SandraS:** I think because NWP also believes teachers' voices are critical

**BJB2:** o O ( Sandy also leads a monthly WriteTalk discussion here in Tapped In )

**SandraS:** that's why they do so much publishing, teacher inquiry, research

**SandraS:** yes....thanks for reminding me BJ

**SandraS:** WriteTalk is an online writing group here

**SandraS:** it's meant to support professional writing, writing about our profession of teaching

**BJB2:** you can read the archives of past discussions at [www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

**SandraS:** and we talk about writing across the curriculum

**SandraS:** our last session was on using writing to reflect on our teaching

**SandraS:** a recent publication of the NWP is called Rural Voices

**SandraS:** there's a whole rural sites network and so a group of teachers did research on how

**SandraS:** place-based education can enrich the classroom

**SandraS:** then they published a volume of their research

**SandraS:** it's a wonderful piece...and shows how you can use place-conscious education anywhere

**SandraS:** not just rural places

**SandraS:** Tana, we've got a couple kindergarten teachers in our summer institute

**SandraS:** what's so cool is that as a college professor, I can learn from their knowledge

**SandraS:** it's a wonderful way to network

**TanaMo:** sounds like a great place to collaborate

**SandraS:** whenever I'm around NWP folk, I am so proud to be a teacher...I always meet passionate, creative teachers and writers

**SandraS:** it is... and you can usually tell a school that has a couple Teacher Consultants there...they often end up collaborating within the school

**SandraS:** any questions/comments about NWP?

**SarahRB:** sounds great! I'd love to get involved

**SandraS:** Please do! the site near you would be lucky to have you participate!

**TanaMo:** no sounds awesome, would like to look into it more

**SandraS:** wonderful, Tana!

**SandraS:** do either of you have a topic you'd like to discuss?

**SandraS:** or do we want to put Sarah on the spot and listen to her talk about her work on the video project?

**TanaMo** smiles

**SarahRB:** it's up to everyone here...

**SandraS:** what would you like to do, Tana?

**TanaMo:** I would like to hear more Sarah

**SarahRB:** I'm interested in hearing about newspapers in the classroom, if anyone knows anything about that?

**SandraS:** me, too

**SandraS:** ooh....

**SandraS:** like online zines?

**SarahRB:** more like using the newspaper as a nonfiction reading

**SandraS:** or publications coming from journalism classes.....

**TanaMo:** I use a lot of magazines, haven't worked much on newspapers

**SarahRB:** activity, vocabulary builder, etc.

**SarahRB:** instead of buying nonfiction anthologies

**SandraS:** ahhh....

**SarahRB:** we decided to use newspapers this year...

**SandraS:** ok, my son uses it in 7th grade social studies

**SandraS** listens to Sarah

**BJB2:** obituaries are a great writing prompt

**SarahRB:** just trying to figure out a framework for reading and writing where it is meaningful

**SarahRB:** for the students

**TanaMo:** We briefly touch on the subject of newspapers in Kindergarten

**SandraS:** I've got to hear about the obituaries, Bj

**SandraS:** and about kindergarten use, Tana

**SarahRB:** obits!        funny, but actually the NY Times has the most interesting ones!

**BJB2:** who were the presidents during the person's lifetime, what changes in technology did he see, what year was he born

**SarahRB:** that's interesting

**BJB2:** tons of topics

**SandraS:** that is a cool idea...so it's more research based...imaginary based?

**BJB2:** probably more research based

**BJB2** . o O ( if you want to tie it in with social studies )

**SandraS:** never thought of obits as such a creative source

**SandraS:** my mind is spinning off with possibilities

**SarahRB:** wrote down the idea, thanks!

**SandraS:** how do you introduce newspapers in kindergarten, Tana?

**TanaMo:** I basically use them as another source for gaining information, and there is a kids page in the local paper here in Houston.

**SandraS:** oh, cool....

**TanaMo:** it has fun facts that the kids really enjoy

**SandraS:** bridge from pre-reading to reading, too?

**TanaMo:** yes

**TanaMo:** I use magazines a lot though

**SandraS:** my son's 7th grade class assignment is to pick out an article on a topic, either state or national

**SandraS:** then they have to summarize article

**SandraS:** but that would bore me to death.

**SandraS:** so BJ's idea about the obituaries is much more intriguing to me

**SarahRB:** yes, bore me too

**SandraS:** so what were your initial thoughts about using newspapers, Sarah...what do you want to accomplish?

**SarahRB:** I was thinking imitating different writing styles in the sections of the paper...editorials, etc.

**SarahRB:** I want to stimulate an interest in nonfiction reading

**TanaMo:** I remember having to find an article in a news paper and writing my own version of what happened and reporting it to the class

**SarahRB:** the anthologies the kids were using of real life stories were soooo bad

**BJB2:** comics are a good resource too...and political cartoons for the older kids

**SarahRB:** cartoons--great idea!

**TanaMo:** that's a great idea

**SandraS:** I still haven't read Ralph Fletcher and JoAnn Portalupi's Non-Fiction Crafts

**SandraS:** but I've bet they've got something about newspapers

**SarahRB:** what are those about?

**SandraS:** multiple intelligences....humor....art

**SandraS:** excellent resources....

**SandraS:** Fiction Crafts

**SandraS:** Non-Fiction Crafts

**SarahRB:** crafts as in arts and crafts?

**SandraS:** almost a series of mini-lessons on how to incorporate crafts

**SarahRB:** neat

**SandraS:** ok, see this word was very confusing to me at first

**BJB2:** are you familiar with Daryl Cagle's comics page?

**SarahRB:** no...

**SandraS:** as a college prof., never heard anyone say "writing crafts"

**SandraS:** but in middle school, Fletcher uses the phrase to indicate various skills

**SarahRB:** there are text books called the Writer's Craft

**SandraS:** like writing in first person

**BJB2:** <http://www.cagle.com/>

MelissaIM joined the room.

**BJB2:** there's a teacher's guide too

**BJB2:** Hi, Melissa. Welcome

**SandraS:** cool, BJ!

MelissaIM: Thanx, I'm just popping in for a minute

**SandraS:** Melissa, we're talking about using newspapers in the classroom

**SandraS:** Sarah wants to incorporate newspapers in an engaging way

**SandraS:** to promote vocabulary building, writing, recognition of different types of writing

**SandraS** wonders if she articulated that right...

MelissaIM: great!

**SarahRB**: yes...you're right on

MelissaIM: I have to run back to my cadre, I'll check out the transcript!

MelissaIM left the room.

**SandraS**: thanks for dropping in Melissa

**TanaMo**: sounds like there

**SandraS**: oops, she sped out too fast

**TanaMo**: sounds like there's a lot you can with newspaper s

**BJB2**: Ads are also good for budgeting, shopping, planning a career

**SandraS**: ooh, another great idea....

**BJB2** . o O ( classified ads )

**SandraS**: of course, then you've got the personals....

**TanaMo**: hmmm

**BJB2**: teens are going to buy a new car....what do they have to know

**SandraS**: which can be a hoot...imagine if 7th graders wrote personals but for another student in the class...

**BJB2**: yes, personals can be cool

**SandraS**: I'm thinking there's got to be some material with rhetorics folk, or maybe in journalism....

**SandraS**: the director of Oklahoma State Writing Project is a journalism teacher

**SandraS**: I met her last year at the writing retreat

**SandraS**: I bet she would have some great ideas.

**SarahRB**: personals would be hilarious

**SandraS**: I'll email her and then send the info to you, Sarah, if you'd like

**SarahRB:** that would be great!

**SandraS:** Also, local papers often have a section devoted to student writers...

**SandraS:** I know the Huntsville Times does

**BJB2:** how about inviting her to be a guest during one of your discussions, Sandy?

**SandraS:** so students could write letters...

**SandraS:** brilliant suggestion, BJ....

**SandraS:** the thing about newspapers is that it can really help students understand authentic audience...

**SarahRB:** yeah...that seems to be key in motivating middle schoolers

**SandraS:** if they're writing an opinion letter to go to the newspaper, that's a vastly different project than writing a paper to be graded

**SandraS:** yes, and there are lots of other ideas for authentic audiences, Sarah....

**BJB2:** sports reporting is popular for that age group

**SandraS:** which is one of the reasons I asked you what you were trying to accomplish with the newspapers

**SarahRB:** I was even thinking after the students sample the different styles of reading, imitate the writing styles of the paper sections, and then build a one-issue paper for the classroom

**SandraS:** that sounds really good, Sarah

**SandraS:** you could also appeal to the different learning strengths in the class by creating a newspaper staff

**SandraS:** cartoon editor

**SandraS:** editorial editor

**SandraS:** advertising

**SandraS:** students could solicit opinion letters from students outside of class

**SandraS:** oops!

**SandraS:** it's 8pm...

**BJB2:** you can do that on a small scale with kinders too

**SarahRB:** thanks so much for all of these terrific ideas!

**BJB2:** Looks like our time is up. If anyone is interested in joining Dianne for a pre-festival tour, here's your opportunity!

**SandraS:** Thank you, Sarah and Tana for sharing your ideas!