

Title of Session: K-12 Language Arts - Writing

Moderator: Karen Lemmons

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Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

KarenL: Okay, I believe we will get started. Let's do introductions. Hmm I love starbucks, but I digress. Let's introduce ourselves.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and am interested in integrating Language Arts into the arts curriculum

KarenL: My name is Karen Lemmons. I'm a library media specialist in a Detroit public elementary school.

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

DavidWe: I lead a math education and technology discussion in TI. I'm in New Jersey near New York City

JeffC joined the room.

KarenL: Hi Jeff! We're doing introductions.

FredK: Hi Jeff

KarenL: Thank you all for coming. Today's session will be on writing. If any of you were here in May or June, we focused on reading and literature. I was challenged to focus on writing.

JeffC: I used to teach English, and used Bay Area Writing Project guidelines to good effect. I'm on Helpdesk here and in Oregon.

KarenL left the room (signed off).

JeffC: Dang... I didn't think BAWP would scare Karen away!

JeffC . o O (maybe it's Oregon)

DavidWe: Wow!

DavidWe: And she is from Detroit

FredK . o O (spread pretty thin)

JeffC: Must be the Oregon reference then.

DavidWe smiles

JeffC: <http://www.bayareawritingproject.org/>

JeffC: thought I'd just throw that up there amidst the silence while we wait for Karen.

DavidWe: Good idea, Jeff

KarenL joined the room.

DavidWe: Still hot in Oklahoma, it seems, according to the NYTimes

DavidWe: Welcome back, Karen

KarenL: Thank you, these crash landings are hard. . .

KarenL: Okay, as I was saying, I do incorporate writing into my library lessons.

KarenL: However, based on our state test scores (hmm--thanks David), we need to focus on writing information pieces, something I've not done.

KarenL: Well, I'm going to rephrase that. I started last school year, but need to do more of it and with the early grades. I started with the 4th and 5th.

KarenL: How many of you are familiar with the readwritethink website?

DavidWe doesn't know about it

FredK: I've been there

KarenL: Okay, then I think we need to show that one. Fred, did you like it? did you find it useful?

FredK: It has some good features, but I generally use others

KarenL: <http://www.readwritethink.com>

KarenL left the room (signed off).

DavidWe: Poor Karen

DavidWe: brb

FredK: My popup from readwritethink said I should flip a quarter

FredK: This is a new menu. Has someone else taken it over?

BJB2: Fred, you're probably thinking of <http://www.readwritethink.org/>

JeffC: It looks like sponsoredlinksville

FredK: How many teachers need a lesson plan on the casino?

JeffC: I think that Karen was probably thinking of that site to Bj.

BJB2 agrees with Jeff

JeffC: That's one of the problems with .orgs vs. .coms. I actually wrote to the owner of tappedin.com the other day... since I haven't seen any change on his homepage for some years. He says his site is still active though.

DavidWe: That music is great, though...on tappedin.com

DavidWe grins

JeffC: I did it because the author for the MIT article who interviewed me mistakenly put tappedin.com instead... I wrote and he corrected the online version, but obviously if it's in print it's too late.

JeffC: I think that's what the guy is into... I'm working up to asking him to put a link on his homepage to here.

JeffC: Because you *know* that he must be getting hundreds of hits a month (if not more) for our site.

DavidWe smiles

FredK: Teachers have a problem with teacher.com also. I have a mail box there.

JeffC: not to mention whitehouse.com

DavidWe: Well, that IS high level

FredK: One of the choices at Mail.com

FredK: I am trying to get my correspondents to shift to my yahoo address

DavidWe: I think Karen is "lost in space"

JeffC nods

BJB2: took her a long time to get back yesterday when she lost her connection

KarenL joined the room.

JeffC: If you saw the devastation in Lebanon... anyone claiming a victory is pretty nuts!

JeffC: Hi again Karen.

DavidWe: Hi, Karen. Step lightly

JeffC: We were thinking the site you wanted us to look at was:
<http://www.readwritethink.org/>

FredK: Welcome back

KarenL: Thank you.

KarenL: Yes, I believe I put .com instead of .org

KarenL: Did you all take a look?

BJB2 nods

FredK: That's the one I am acquainted with

BJB2: great site

KarenL: Fred, I'm interested in other writing websites you use.

KarenL nods

KarenL: I have a few that I found pretty interesting and want to share.

FredK: I don't have del.icio.us up right now.

DavidWe . o O (National Writing Project - www.nwp.org - ?)

KarenL: oh yes! that was one of my "few."

DavidWe smiles

FredK: Maybe I can make a track with mine for you

FredK: It could be posted

KarenL: Sounds good. If you click on the "encourage writing" link, you will find resources and lessons that you can use for writing activities.

KarenL: Yes, my list will be posted under "files."

KarenL: Give me a few days, though.

KarenL: another one I found interesting was timeforkids. I didn't know they had a writing portion on the website.

KarenL: <http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/hh/writeideas>

KarenL: for fun, I suggest the following website. It may take a moment or two to load up.

KarenL: <http://www.pimpampum.net/bubblr/>

KarenL: Bj, the artist, sent me that website. . .

BJB2: cool, Karen.

KarenL: But I love it, since I know so many artistic students at our school. I could see tons of stories from them. . .

FredK: So far that shifty screen is still blank for me

BJB2: me too

KarenL: Uh-oh. . .

FredK: I uncovered the instructions above

BJB2: . o O (I was put off by thinking the name was pimp amp um)

FredK: syllables make a difference

FredK: Pushing GO got me some pictures

KarenL: Okay, I think we'll need to work on that website some more. . .

BJB2: ahhh...needs to be a full screen

BJB2: then you can see the directions

FredK: Didn't help me

FredK: The screen is bigger than the monitor screen

KarenL: Thanks for the help! I see some pictures and the directions. . .

FredK: . o O (there must be some mathematical principle with the screen movement)

KarenL: Need to have our own pictures for the young students. Some of the pictures I saw have older folks. . .

DavidWe: math, MATH! Who said math?

DavidWe believes Fred was a math major

KarenL: Okay, let's shift. Fred and David. . . have you heard of 6+1 trait writing?

DavidWe: Nope

KarenL: Our school district has "adopted" this writing to encourage our students to write.

DavidWe believes that, in some contexts, $6+1=7$

FredK: What?

KarenL: Here is one of many websites on the subject.

KarenL laughs at David's math. . .

DavidWe: Hey, it's mostly right

FredK: Is it like the big 6?

KarenL: <http://www.nwrel.org/assessment/department.php?d=1>

KarenL: No, the big 6 is about information literacy. 6+1 are steps on writing.

KarenL hopes she has the website correct.

DavidWe: Why is it called "6+1"?

DavidWe: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation

KarenL: thank you, David!

KarenL: six common traits in "good" writing.

DavidWe: Welcome, Karen

FredK: . o O (lots of seminars)

DavidWe agrees with Fred

KarenL: yes, it is quite popular with some school districts.

KarenL: now a few others, then I must go. I couldn't pass up one website, as a librarian you know.

KarenL:

http://www.awesomelibrary.org/library/Material_Search/Lesson_Plans/Language_Arts.html

KarenL: another one is <http://www.writingfix.com>

DavidWe: Sorry to interrupt, Karen...

DavidWe: Wonderful story about a poet, Alberto Rios, from Arizona State, who did a poem on pieces of stone along a waterway (10 miles) in Tempe

DavidWe: . o O (words over water)

DavidWe: Wonderful

DavidWe: That's one way to get people to write

DavidWe: Something about him:

DavidWe: <http://www.public.asu.edu/~aarios/page2.html>

KarenL: David, that is fine. . .share! share! share!

DavidWe smiles

FredK: Music too

KarenL: Next month is back to school resources--reading, writing, thinking, art, music. .

DavidWe: Have a good dinner, Karen

KarenL: thanks guys, see you in September, I hope?

DavidWe: Thanks for leading the discussion

KarenL: bye, everyone!

DavidWe: Ciao

DavidWe waves bye

FredK: bye thanks