

Title of Session: K-12 Language Arts - Back to School

Moderator: Karen Lemmons

Title of File: 20070816langarts

Date: August 16, 2007

Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

KarenL: Okay, I guess it is just us three! Let's begin with introductions. Luis, you start.

LuisR: well I'm 20 I'm a guy I am Hispanic I am an English major

BJB2: I teach communication in Pennsylvania

KarenL: And I am a school librarian in an elementary school in Detroit.

BJB2: are you planning on teaching, Luis?

LuisR: so you're a teacher already

LuisR: well to tell you the truth not anymore

LuisR: I want to have it as my back up

KarenL: uh-oh, what do you really want to do?

DavidW joined the room.

LuisR: I started with primerica financial services, it allows me to build my own business with in that business

KarenL: okay. David, we are doing introductions.

DavidW: I'm David Weksler, one of the HelpDesk volunteers. I lead a math education and technology discussion in Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, close to New York City

BJB2 wonders what brings Luis to the language arts discussion if he's interested in building a business?

KarenL: Let's get started. One of the first resources I recommend for all teachers is The First Days of School by Wong.

BJB2 agrees. Wong is very good

DavidW smiles

DavidW . o O (I think I've seen that comment before)

LuisR: class grade, I'm also interested in what goes on in the teaching world

BJB2 nods ;-)

KarenL: It is an excellent book on classroom management, procedures, and more.

BJB2: cool, Luis

KarenL: Here is it website: <http://www.harrywong.com>

KarenL: Is everyone exploring the Harry Wong website?

LuisR: yes

LuisR: I don't like the fact that it sells you things

KarenL: yes, Harry Wong is big business now.

BJB2: it is a big ad, but the product is excellent.

BJB2: <http://www.harrywong.com/product/newspaper.htm>

BJB2: they have a free newspaper

KarenL: Thanks for the info, BJ!

KarenL: Okay, I'm going to go to the next professional resource. The North Central Regional Educational Laboratory has resources for teachers as well.

KarenL: It is <http://www.ncrel.org>

DavidW looks

KarenL: Another "laboratory" resource is MCREL. <http://www.mcrel.org>

BJB2: both sources have been around for a long time

KarenL: Another resource I recently discovered is Just4kids. It is a "scientifically-based" resource on best practices for student achievement.

BJB2: cool, Karen

DavidW: what does "scientifically-based" mean to you, Karen?

KarenL: http://www.just4kids.org/en/washington/best_practices/framework.cfm

KarenL: oops, I mean scientifically researched-based, according to NCLB.

DavidW smiles

KarenL: I will tell you this is an excellent resource for best practices. Have some "real school" examples, instead of just theory.

LuisR: so how will this prepare me for the incoming year if I were a teacher?

BJB2: Luis, did you scroll down to below the graphics?

KarenL: Okay, if you go through the framework grid, you can click on a particular area like data. Click on school level and you will see examples of schools using data to monitor student achievement.

BJB2 . o O (there is a "how to use this Framework" list)

KarenL: yes, it is. When I saw this, I went straight to the data framework. I was looking for some specific information.

KarenL: Now, I'm going to take you to some specific language arts resources that are helpful.

KarenL: ReadWriteThink is an excellent one. <http://www.readwritethink.org>

BJB2 smiles. Super stuff at this site. It was mentioned during the writetalk discussion also

KarenL: Great stuff. Definitely a website to bookmark and use over and over again.

KarenL: Now, for the super young, like my elementary students, starfall is excellent for reading. <http://www.starfall.com>

BJB2: Karen, you also might want to share the National Writing Project site at www.nwp.org

KarenL: Thanks, BJ, I forgot about that resource!

DavidW smiles

BJB2: nwp has recently redesigned their site and has a fantastic search engine

DavidW: We would betray our oath as HelpDesk volunteers if we forget that one, Karen

KarenL giggles.

KarenL: A website that I recently learned about is Reading Answers. It is a resource on reading and reading strategies. <http://www.readinganswers.com>

KarenL: How am I doing? Am I moving too fast? too slow? just right?

DavidW is investigating some web sites

KarenL: Okay, I was wondering. . .

DavidW: Happy to look at what is next

KarenL: My next two are general resources for teachers. The first is Education World.

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

DavidW: Interestingly, Karen, you've mentioned a number of the same sites that Susan Roseman was suggesting to participants last night

DavidW . o O (focus on back to school)

BJB2 smiles...starting with Harry

DavidW: yes, you both began with that

KarenL: uhm great minds think alike???

KarenL: Well, my last one for the evening was About.com

DavidW: BJ, our "training program" has produced wonderful results, huh?

KarenL: My last resource for the evening is another general teaching resource. It is about.com <http://www.about.com>

LuisR: I don't like apple computer because I don't know how to open multiple searching pages it only opens one at a time

DavidW: type Apple-N and you will get a new browser window, Luis

DavidW: You can do that as many times as you like

KarenL gasps. How can he NOT like Apple?

LuisR: thanks d

KarenL: thank you, David. Luis loves Apples again.

LuisR: lol I am hungry

KarenL: David, aren't you the cook?

KarenL: Or am I confusing you with another helpdesk volunteer?

BJB2 smiles....you are correct, Karen. Luis, David will have to fix you his special apple cobbler!

DavidW likes to cook

BJB2 . o O (with vanilla ice cream)

KarenL: hmmm I thought so!!!!

DavidW: warm apple cobbler, too

KarenL: I'm ready. . .

LuisR: likes to eat

KarenL: David or BJ, are there some other websites you want to share?

LuisR: I like the reading page

LuisR: I like parent and student involvement

BJB2: sometimes it's better to just have a few sites and explore them more thoroughly, Karen

BJB2: I liked the ones you showed

KarenL: A book that I like to use for writing is 6+1 traits writing. I think there is a website, but I'm not sure.

BJB2: and, as David mentioned, it's interesting that the same sites are being repeated more and more frequently...like starfall

DavidW: is this what you are looking for, Karen?

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

KarenL: yes. And also, <http://www.webenglishteacher.com>

BJB2: and go to www.nwp.org and enter six traits

BJB2 . o O (in the search box)

LuisR: too many websites

LuisR: lol

LuisR: jk

KarenL: cool!!! yes, Luis. so many websites, so little time.

KarenL: speaking of time. my time is almost up. Luis do you have any questions?

KarenL: Luis, you will receive a copy of the transcript of this discussion.

LuisR: thanks

LuisR: no questions

LuisR: I really like about 3 websites

LuisR: they are all good

LuisR: but mainly 3

LuisR: thanks for having me

KarenL: cool. Explore them. Thanks for coming!

BJB2: what three were your favorites, Luis?

BJB2 . o O (just curious)

LuisR: webenglishteacher my fav.

LuisR: you may find it weird

LuisR: but I just did a presentation

LuisR: on that website

LuisR: yesterday

KarenL: wow, great minds thinking alike!!!

BJB2 smiles...cool!

DavidW smiles

LuisR: also the writing one and the reading that had the parent involvement

LuisR: so far

LuisR: need to explore more

LuisR: thats right

BJB2: thanks for the input, Luis

LuisR: no problem

KarenL: thanks, bj for asking. . .

BJB2: Thanks for the resources, Karen.

KarenL: you're welcome. I'll be emailing you for some ideas for September. Grandparents' day, labor day, fall resources. . .you know I need help!!!

BJB2 smiles...looks like you did fine

KarenL: Take care everyone! Have a good first day of school!!!!

KarenL: Until next time. . .peace!

DavidW: Thanks, Karen. You too

LuisR: bye