Title of Session: Fanfiction and Technology
Moderator: Patricia Pierce
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Room: Fanfiction Group

PatriciaP1: Aileen- are you currently teaching?

AileenM: Yes. I am a visual arts teacher at a public high school

PatriciaP1: do your students write essays

BJB2: let's do some housekeeping first, Pat...

AileenM: I encourage a lot of writing in my courses. I also work with the creative writing teacher and we publish a book on social awareness through the arts that students do

BJB2: wow, that sounds great, Aileen!

PatriciaP1: topic: what constitutes good writing?

BJB2: Pat has posted an agenda on the whiteboard for us today

BJB2: that first topic is great...how do we measure quality writing?

PatriciaP1: Wow Aileen, your book sounds interesting

AileenM: where is the white board?

BJB2: on the web window behind the detached chat, Aileen

AileenM: I found it... I always ask before looking...

BJB2: Pat, what do you think constitutes good writing?

BJB2 . o O (is there a formula?)

PatriciaP1: for one, voice

BJB2: oh, cool

PatriciaP1: tone is another

BJB2: I just finished reading Disguised as a Poem by Judith Tannenbaum...she uses voice

BJB2: can you explain tone?

AileenM: By voice and tone would you say it should have an "authentic" language

PatriciaP1: true

PatriciaP1: I love when I can read into the language without the author actually saying the words

AileenM: How would you instill this concept with your students?

PatriciaP1: topic: how can community and/or peer feedback develop good writing skills

PatriciaP1: The strategy show not tell is what comes to mind

AileenM: ok

PatriciaP1: A middle school book, Tuck Everlasting is a perfect example of this strategy

AileenM: As a visual arts teacher my students are constantly getting peer and even community feedback

PatriciaP1: Actually, it is one of my favorite books because I found myself visualizing the entire time

AileenM: cool

PatriciaP1: what methods do you use?

AileenM: For peer feedback we do class and small group critiques

PatriciaP1: have you ever heard of fanfiction?

AileenM: At first they struggle to talk about the work so i alwys have them write about it first

AileenM: No I have not

PatriciaP1: I've included 2 great links to ck out

AileenM: I will do that

PatriciaP1: fanfiction.net is a really great place to write fanfiction

AileenM : How do you get effective student feedback on writing?

PatriciaP1 : peer feedback is also part of this community

AileenM : yes I am new to Tapped In and just learning the ropes

PatriciaP1 : discussion

PatriciaP1 : did you say you have taught creative writing?

AileenM : No. But I work on an extra curricula project with the creative writing teacher

PatriciaP1 : have you ever used technology in either visual arts or creative writing?

AileenM : Also, my students do illustrated stories of their own using photographs

PatriciaP1 : digital stories?

PatriciaP1 : I just created one of my own

AileenM : And my graphic design students illustrate a fairy tale and create a book cover

PatriciaP1 : using technology?

AileenM : They can work digitally or traditional methods making a one of a kind artist book. I let them choose

PatriciaP1 : do they favor one more than the other?

AileenM : I also teach computer animation and we discuss the idea of story

AileenM : yes traditional

PatriciaP1 : no way

AileenM : yes way

PatriciaP1 : I really thought you were going to say technology

AileenM : I think that like most human beings there is something about the tactile of the "real world" that makes it satisfying.

PatriciaP1 : have you ever used PhotoStory 3?

AileenM : Also, they get a lot of "computer" tech in their lives

AileenM: No. We design our books using InDesign

AileenM: what is photostory 3

PatriciaP1: is this software that can be downloaded from the Internet?

BJB2 thinks Aileen needs to join the Art of Storytelling group!

AileenM: what is that about?

BJB2: storytelling and the many ways in which you can tell stories

AileenM: Are you asking about InDesign Patricia?

AileenM: sounds groovy man

PatriciaP1: Ck it out. It is a great way to integrate technology with storytelling

PatriciaP1: yes

SusanR joined the room.

PatriciaP1: hi Sue

AileenM: I am checking it out now

SusanR waves and listens

SusanR: Hi Aileen

PatriciaP1: topic: what role does authentic learning play in the writing process

SusanR: Hi Patricia

AileenM: InDesign is a layout program from Adobe. It is definitely not a download : (

BJB2: Sue, Patricia has an agenda on the whiteboard

SusanR looks

BJB2: photostory is free, Aileen

PatriciaP1: if your computer runs MS Vista it is not compatible. You have to have XP

BJB2 nods

AileenM: I was just checking it out. The reason for using InDesign is it is a publishing and GD industry standard Gives students an authentic real world experience and skill to get a job after school

AileenM: Also InDesign has unlimited creativity in laying out a publication

PatriciaP1: getting back to fanfiction, has anyone else ever had their students write a story from another characters point of view?

PatriciaP1: Harry Potter has a huge fan base

BJB2: I've used picture books to demonstrate different pov, but haven't had the kids write using pov

PatriciaP1: that's fanfiction

BJB2 nods

PatriciaP1: the great part now is that there is a place online to post and respond to others doing the same

AileenM: I am checking out the site but I am not sure what it is fully about

AileenM: fanfiction that is

SusanR: Can you project the site please?

BJB2: is the url, Patricia? http://www.fanfiction.net/

PatriciaP1: yes

AileenM: As anyone can submit stories and develop their fanfare forum group, how do you determine what is authentic good writing to use with your students?

PatriciaP1: I believe peer feedback is crucial to the development of writing skills

PatriciaP1: as a teacher, you can use a Wiki or even a blog. This way you can control the topic more easily.

AileenM: As a public school, I am limited in having my students submit to a forum that is not secure, It would be great if they could get peer feedback from readers all over, but is there a moderator to make sure that feedback is "proper" so to speak?

AileenM: Oh...the new stuff I am trying to learn...

AileenM grrrrrrr

PatriciaP1: Great way to keep better control, and guidance

BJB2: wiki? blog?

BJB2 . o O (or use the K-12 Student Campus)

JeffC echoes Bj.

AileenM: a ha!

BJB2: the student campus is very secure and safe

AileenM oO sounds like a sales pitch

BJB2 smiles...it is! Jeff and I get a cut of the profits ;-)

AileenM: I see you make the big bucks!

JeffC: hehe... wish that were true!

SusanR grins

PatriciaP1: I'm going to have to ck out the K-12 campus myself

BJB2: seriously, the teacher creates the classroom in the student campus...

BJB2: and assigns usernames and passwords

BJB2: when the students log in they land in their classroom...

JeffC: Tapped In is the safest and most secure site to bring students online to work... and collaborate. Using threaded Discussion boards in the K-12 campus, and having two (or more) teachers collaborate, you could do all of the above...

BJB2: they can have real time text chats or use the threaded discussion boards for asynch discussion

PatriciaP1: didn't realize you could do this

JeffC gives tours and support of the K-12 campus here on Saturday mornings at 11a.m. Pacific.

BJB2: Pat's class could collaborate with Aileen's class for example

SusanR: And classroom doors in the K12 campus can be locked and unlocked!

JeffC: teachers receive the chat transcripts of their students (including private chats).

PatriciaP1: that would be awesome experience for students

AileenM: could we incorporate a site like fanfiction

BJB2: you could name your classroom fanfiction

JeffC: your students can't access the main campus, but you could put whatever resources from here into your class.

PatriciaP1: this would also be great for teachers to work together

AileenM: In some ways it is like the distance learning lab we have at our high school for video conferences.

PatriciaP1: does anyone use technology in their classroom?

AileenM: Only this is text and images. I guess we could add links to podcasts etc

JeffC: yes, plus of course the teachers could access the other professional development groups here in the main campus. Furthermore there is a "K-12 Students" group here where you could post a request to collaborate, reaching over 400 teachers who already have K-12 classes.

PatriciaP1: I've done video conf's with 2nd graders

JeffC: yes Aileen... and there are other sites where you could hold audio/video meetings if you wished.

PatriciaP1: we worked with Mexican students on Monarch butterflies

AileenM: sounds cool 2nd graders I am sure loved it

PatriciaP1: they really did, and they learned so much

SusanR: Is that Journey North, Patricia

PatriciaP1: yes. I am a member of the Monarch Teacher Network

JeffC: you're a real social butterfly, pat!

PatriciaP1: ;)

BJB2 groans

PatriciaP1: how does everyone feel about the final topic...how has technology enhanced the teaching of writing

AileenM: hey, can we zoom down to the topic on how tech has enhanced teaching writing? I only have a few more minutes and would like to hear about that

JeffC: lol

PatriciaP1: all I can say is to Blog, Blog, Blog

PatriciaP1: Even 1st grade students are using blogs

AileenM: why?

JeffC: personally, I think we're just starting to look at ways that tech may enhance writing. in my own district, I recommended using "dragon naturally speaking" for my son (who has a bilateral lisp) and suggested the district consider using it for all K-6 students. Apparently they actually listened to me (for a change) and are starting to adopt it.

JeffC: I think writing may be geometrically enhanced and the learning curve flattened considerably by using speech to text technology.

AileenM impressed with Jeff!

PatriciaP1: I've not used assistive technology, but I'm aware of the amazing things they are doing with technology in this area

JeffC: whether you blog, chat at tapped in, whatever... kids know how to talk! they *don't* know how to type (or even use a pencil all that well in forming letters). why add a mechanical filter to developing the writing process?

AileenM: Can you give some specific examples?

PatriciaP1: actually Jeff that's a great example

AileenM: To understand, are you saying the keyboard and the pencil are the mechanical filters?

JeffC: the thing is... speech to text is still somewhat in its infancy... although text to speech is well established (and there are many programs that will do this... free downloads, etc.). Once things get moving, I think that there will be great advances in student writing using S2T. However... like anything regarding tech, getting the status quo to change is never easy.

JeffC: yes... keyboard and pencils are mechanical filters and slow down the writing process.

AileenM: I don't think I fully agree, but I do believe in the free association of speech

JeffC: it's funny how in English classes (in high school, college, etc.) oftentimes teachers are encouraged to help their students "discover their voice."

PatriciaP1: you can google assistive technology and you'll be surprised how technology is enhancing the lives of many students

SusanR . o O (The number of web based projects and online collaborative projects out there should enhance the teaching of writing)

PatriciaP1: technology is what they use everyday in their lives...digital natives they call them now

AileenM: I use assistive technology in my classroom now and I agree it is a big bennefit. I also agree that for all students speech to text can enhance their learning of writing

JeffC: I know that what I'm arguing for isn't status quo, and that there will be those who disagree... but frankly, I firmly believe that having 2nd graders learn to type is a waste of time and very frustrating for almost everyone. Having them wear a headset, and then tell a story and see their words come up on the screen would really facilitate the writing process, not to mention increase the "fun quotient" of learning.

JeffC: not only writing of course, but reading as well (and both go hand in hand).

AileenM: Maybe the problem is I think about high school students who have such poor control of their penmanship, and who lack any real sentence structure

JeffC: Windows Vista is supposed to have an enhanced speech to text voice recognition program built into it... I haven't tried it yet though.

PatriciaP1: working on that Jeff. With the MLK holiday coming up, I'm working on a project about peace. Students will write what peace means to them, then I'm going to put it together as a digital story

BJB2: Patricia....just a sec. I have a great site for you

JeffC: even students with horrific penmanship and grammar could be helped by S2T. Consider having them "say-write" their assignments into Word... right there they have the added benefit of spell and grammar check... if indeed that is your goal.

SusanR: Students are now using tools like VoiceThread and UStream and Skype

BJB2: Words for Peace http://www.wordsforpeace.org/

AileenM: No, I would like for them to know! But I would say that I have my students read out loud what they write. Hearing "writing" is so important to good writing as we discussed. I think I see a need for balance. I do feel that many 1 & 2 graders could benefit from this technology

PatriciaP1: thanks. I'm going to check it out as soon as we sign off. I'll let you know how I make out.

PatriciaP1: Aileen...I agree

AileenM: hey folks, I have to go dig my car out now so I can get to school tomorrow. We had 12" today

PatriciaP1: this digital story will be narrated so they can hear themselves

AileenM: I enjoyed this forum

PatriciaP1: thanks. We meet every month

BJB2: Thanks, Patricia. Great job.

AileenM: I will. Bye

AileenM: Yes thanks Patricia

PatriciaP1: I live in SJ and we didn't get any snow. I wish we had

PatriciaP1: thanks everyone!

SusanR: We lost most of our snow.

SusanR: http://www.storylineonline.net/

PatriciaP1: thanks, Susan

PatriciaP1: I think I've used that before

SusanR: Some great stories read by the Actors

PatriciaP1: I've played Thanks Mr Falker

PatriciaP1: great website

PatriciaP1 : well, I've got to go. Thanks again. See you next month.