Title of Session: WriteTalk
Moderator: Sandra Shattuck
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Room: WriteTalk Group

SandraS: We usually begin with introductions...where we are, what we teach...

BJB2: Welcome, everyone, to today's WriteTalk discussion

BJB2 seconds the intro idea

SandraS bows to BJ...

SusanR: Hi Sandra

ElizabethC: I'm Elizabeth. I teach chemistry to high school girls in Connecticut.

SandraS: Hey, Susan!

SusanR: Sue from Ottawa, Ontario

KarynL: I'm Karyn I teach a 4/5th grade split in Aurora, IL

SusanR: I teach K to 6 on an occasional basis

MaryannA: Maryann instructional tech consultant from Iowa

SandraS: I teach writing and literature (college-level) in Alabama

SandraS: Everybody knows BJ, I'm assuming!

SandraS: Matt...do you want to introduce yourself?

SandraS . o O (Matt may be resting...)

SandraS: So I usually begin WriteTalk by introducing the National Writing Project

SandraS: Has anyone here heard of the NWP?

ElizabethC: I haven't.

KarynL: me either

SandraS: The National Writing Project began as the Bay Area Writing Project in Berkeley in 1974

SandraS: so it's been around over 30 years

MaryannA: yes

StephaniLN: I am Stephanie. I work in Brooklyn, IL. I teach Middle School Social Studies, Literature, and Math.

SandraS: Hello, Chris. Would you like to introduce yourself?

ChrisSho: I am a middle school teacher, King Middle Grade, Kankakee Illinois.

SandraS: Welcome!

SandraS . o O (lots of Illinois folks tonight...)

SandraS: OK, so I was just introducing the National Writing Project or NWP

SandraS: For over 30 years, it's been a professional development organization

SandraS: federally funded

SandraS: housed at universities

SandraS: made up mostly of k-12 teachers

SandraS: there are about 200 sites

SandraS: each NWP site offers a summer institute

SandraS: which tends to be about 4 weeks long

SandraS: intensive

SandraS: once you've done a summer institute, you become a teacher consultant

SandraS: and can attend writing retreats and other events

SandraS: there are 3 basic tenets of the NWP

SandraS: teachers are the best teachers of other teachers

SandraS: ...no canned professional development!

SandraS: teachers teach writing more effectively when they improve their own writing

SandraS: and writing is a fantastic learning tool across all subject disciplines

SandraS: Before we go check out the website, any questions?

KarynL: no

ChrisSho: no

SandraS: OK -- we'll look at the website for a short bit and then get on to our discussion of writing

SandraS: before I give you the URL, let me just alert you to the map on the top right of the website

SandraS: you can click on it and find the closest writing project site

SandraS: there should be a site website and you can contact folks there about their summer institute and their programs

SandraS: also, there's a fantastic search function

SandraS: so after you've checked out the map, just type in one of your interests

SandraS: journal writing

SandraS: ELL

SandraS: visuals

SandraS: technology

SandraS: anything you like

SandraS: and see what comes up

SandraS: I think you'll see a LOT of really rich resources

SandraS: OK, so just go ahead and visit the site and then come on back here after a couple minutes

SandraS: http://www.nwp.org

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got the webpage?

SandraS: Matt, if you want to check out the website and then come back here... or you can stay here and visit the website later. We'll start our discussion on writing when everyone gets back from visiting the website.

MattCH: is it the article by Gillespie?

SandraS: The article by Gillespie linked above is just one resource

SandraS: It comes from the Quarterly

SandraS: which is the online journal the National Writing Project puts out

SandraS: the NWP is at http://www.nwp.org

SandraS: Is everybody back yet???

KarynL: I'm here

ElizabethC: I just got back. That site is fabulous. There is a center about 1 town over from where I live.

MattCH: ok

SandraS: Great!

MattCH: I'm back

SandraS: OK, so for those of you who got back here, what else did you find out from the site?

SandraS: Any thoughts, comments, questions?

ElizabethC: I found a lot of links to writing in science class that I'm eager to explore.

SandraS: Oh, that's great!

MattCH: I was wondering what types of strategies others use

SandraS: Well, I'm glad you asked Matt...

SusanR: interesting lesson on "Found Poems"
http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/1981

KarynL: I researched writing and technology, found a great article on digital storytelling

SandraS: Wonderful, Karyn.

SandraS: There should be a lot on digital storytelling...something BJ knows a lot about, too!

StephaniLN: Has anyone used blogs for journal writing?

SandraS: Let me show you just one easy resource that will also help with your question, Matt

MattCH: does anyone use Marzano and integrate it with technology?

KarynL: my students have been doing it already it really does make stories come alive

KarynL: I have been using blogs

SandraS: Wow....ok...we've got a couple questions.

SandraS: Karyn and Matt, if you can wait just a sec, we'll talk about both those things.

MattCH: ok

StephaniLN: What is a Marzano?

SandraS: The resource I wanted to show you is a pamphlet called 30 Ideas for teaching writing

SandraS: And it's a pdf

SandraS: you can go to the site and scan it

SandraS: quick ideas

SandraS: and each snippet is linked to a longer article

MattCH: Marzano teaches best practices in the class room

SandraS: let me just give you this resource

SandraS: check it out for 2 minutes

SandraS: come back

MattCH: he is a man

SandraS: and we'll talk about Karyn and Matt's questions.

SandraS: here's the link

SandraS: http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/922

ChrisSho: are the articles that appear in the search engine of nwp captures from other publications?

SandraS: most of them are nwp publications

SandraS: from the website

MattCH: nwp seems like a great website to explore

KarynL: Matt where and what do you teach

ChrisSho: Wow. The 30 ideas section is great!

KarynL: it still wont work for me

SandraS: ok, me either.... if you go to http://www.nwp.org

SandraS: and just type

SandraS: 30 ideas

SandraS: into the search box

SandraS: it will be the first link that comes up

SandraS: see if that works!

StephaniLN: Is it the 30 Ideas for Teaching Writing Book that we are supposed to be looking at?

SandraS: yes, Stephanie

SandraS: that's it!

StephaniLN: Thank you.

SandraS: ok, let's see if we're all here...roll call?

KarynL: I have a question about the second idea...I love that idea (having kids email each other) however what about the safety of that?

ElizabethC: I'm here. I like the 12th idea - writing for a real audience.

StephaniLN: I am here.

MattCH: here…for now

SandraS applauds Matt

SandraS: I like the authentic audience, too, Elizabeth

KarynL: real audiences are best

SandraS: and Karyn, there are some closed systems that allow safety for email

SandraS: like Nicenet

SandraS: or if you can set something up within your school

SandraS: a discussion board

KarynL: I heard about gaggle.net

SandraS: or comments on a blog

SandraS: ooh, that sounds interesting, Karyn

KarynL: yes I do use blogs

StephaniLN: I like the email idea for students in my own classroom

KarynL: but they have to log in as me because they don't have emails

MattCH: gaggle is safe

BJB2 . o O (or use Tapped In student campus)

SandraS nods to BJ

StephaniLN: I use gaggle.net in the classroom with students for emails and blogs

SandraS: right...

SusanR: or epals

SandraS: do you like gaggle.net, Stephanie?

KarynL: I'll have to look into gaggle more

SandraS nods to Susan

MattCH: haven't used gaggle but want to

StephaniLN: But I never thought about emails to talk about books.

KarynL: my kids enjoy writing on the computer using blogs however I have to get them used to revising their work

StephaniLN: Right now I am using the gaggle.net to come up with topics for students to connect with with the books we are reading in the classroom that might relate to their life

SandraS: Using TappedIn could also allow you to have conversations with students in other countries

SandraS: or other parts of this country

MattCH: sounds good

SandraS: that does sound great, Stephanie

MattCH: I would like to have a poetry slam through blogs

StephaniLN: Right now I am not concentrating on the correct writing with the blogs, just getting students used to the blog system.

SandraS: oooh, that also sounds very cool, Matt

SandraS: I agree, Stephanie....blogs are great to get student's writing

StephaniLN: This week was our second week, but first week for a lot of the students.

MattCH: I think that would be interesting to see various style throughout the world

KarynL: once the kids get used to it I found they use the blog all the time

SandraS: what interface do you use, Karyn?

StephaniLN: I know the high school teacher in my building has had the students set up their own blogs to do their journal writing for the day.

ChrisSho: Is blogging like journal or diary writing but open to an audience?

KarynL: How would you go about getting kids from around the world involved?

SandraS: Chris, blogs are just like that

SandraS: good description...

MattCH: not sure Karyn but I guess I would have to network

StephaniLN: The high school teacher has topics, but also likes to have the students write about anything they want to.

SandraS: Karyn, you could contact other teachers through TappedIn

SandraS: that would be one way

KarynL: I'm not sure I can tell you which site I used for blogs I can't remember I tried a few before this one

SandraS: the Flat Stanley project....

MattCH: I'm a dreamer

KarynL: Do I begin my own topic on a floor?

SandraS: do you mean in Tapped In, Karyn?

KarynL: yes

SandraS: BJ, can you field that question?

SandraS: or Susan?

BJB2: do you mean in this discussion, Karyn?

BJB2 . o O (or do you mean schedule your own event on the calendar?)

KarynL: No I'm saying to have my students interact via online with kids around the world

SandraS: So, the question is, how would Karyn get students from other countries to blog with her students...do I understand that right?

KarynL: yes

BJB2: join the Webheads group

SandraS: And then Karyn could post to the discussion

SandraS: Describe what she's looking for

SusanR . o O (Start by setting up a group room..possibly)

BJB2: webheads are an international group of language teachers...ESL/EFL

KarynL: and my kids could be involved

MattCH: Elizabeth?

SandraS: the nice thing with blogs is that the time difference wouldn't matter

SandraS: students could post and comment on each other's blogs whenever worked for them

KarynL: good point, also I can monitor what they type (well sort of)

KarynL: The reason why I like this topic is because we are doing state/country reports now.

SandraS: it would be cool to ask the Webheads group what projects are already underway...

ChrisSho: Could you describe some of the possible content they might type and leave on a blog that would benefit interaction with other students?

StephaniLN: With the gaggle.net blog that I have created for my students the administrator for the blog has to approve all comments that get posted.

KarynL: the kids would love talking to other children from their region

KarynL: My students are asked to comment on books we are reading in school

SandraS: Chris, students could discuss a common book

SandraS: or respond to common topics

KarynL: I also have students asking other to work with them on technology projects

SandraS: digital stories...for instance...

SandraS: they could write "Where I come from" poems

ElizabethC: I'm thinking of using the blog for homework help.

KarynL: I like that point you made about approving comments Stephanie

ChrisSho: Book chats would be interesting. Also their teachers would teach the books differently, which could influence diversity of thought.

SandraS: and read and comment

SandraS nods to Chris

SandraS: interesting points...so blogs can affect teaching, too

ChrisSho: A teacher could also learn.

SandraS: absolutely

StephaniLN: When I set up my own blogs for the books we are reading in class, I have all the students comment on them right now. Maybe eventually, I will get the students to create their own blogs and make them comment on each others comments. Right now I only require students to respond to mine and they can read others comments before they comment.

SandraS: here's a great website by high school students

SandraS: http://notrequiredreading.com

KarynL: My class is the same way. However, blogs are fairly new to all of us. Once it becomes more familiar it will be more common and used more often

SandraS: they read the books and write these wonderful reviews

SandraS: it's not a blog, but something like that could be incorporated into blogs...

ChrisSho: Not required reading looks like a cool site. I wish I had that resource when I was in school!

SandraS: me, too, Chris!

KarynL: I've been hearing that comment a lot lately

SandraS: but I use the site now...helps me choose what YA books I'm going to read next!

ChrisSho: There is a group of 30ish contemporary American lit writers maintaining inner city writing centers. http://www.826national.org/

ChrisSho: They are doing great things.

KarynL: Can someone tell me...when you signed your class up for gaggle.net...can you

do it on your own or do you need a representative from that company to get you started?

SandraS: Chris, thanks for that link...looks really interesting.

SandraS: I don't know gaggle.net at all, Karyn

SandraS: Does anyone else have experience with it?

SandraS: Looks like there's a free version

StephaniLN: Karyn, I think if you sign up for the free version you do not need the representative. If you don't mind giving your email address, I can ask the person in my district who set ours up tomorrow at school and email you the answer tomorrow.

SandraS: Seems like you should just be able to sign up through the website

SandraS: http://www.gaggle.net

BJB2: If you join this group you just have to post to the discussion board to send all members of the group an email

JeffC: both www.gaggle.net and www.epals.com are good email systems for teachers to use.

JeffC: yes... both are free, and both also have premium services.

SandraS: Thanks BJ and Jeff!

KarynL: thank you

SandraS: There's also an option for blogs, I just noticed.

SusanR: Students can only get Gaggle accounts through their school.

SandraS: Looks like at least 3 options for email...gaggle.net, epals, and Tapped In

SusanR: http://www.gaggle.net/signup.html

KarynL: when I went to the technology conference this spring I heard a bit about gaggle. I am definitely going to look more into it

StephaniLN: Karyn are you signed into this group. I can email answers tomorrow for you.

SandraS: That would be great for everyone else signed up to WriteTalk. If you post to the discussion, Stephanie, then everyone will get the message.

KarynL: I'm not sure

SandraS: hang on, I'm checking...

SusanR: Gaggle's filtered for inappropriate content and images, and lets teachers monitor student activity!

StephaniLN: The gaggle offers blogs, emails, digital lockers, chat, message boards, and profile pages.

StephaniLN: It really is a safe site.

SandraS: Looks like Stephanie is a member of WriteTalk but not Karyn

SandraS: Karyn, do you know how to join the group?

StephaniLN: We have had a lot of success with it with the middle school and high school students in my district.

KarynL: no I do not

KarynL: I'm really excited to try it

SandraS: Karyn, you can highlight my name to the left of this chat box

SandraS: then click the green information icon on the right bottom

SandraS: you'll see a link to WriteTalk in my profile

SandraS: click on that

KarynL: I have a student that always writes to me on our class blog which is great but all the kids can see it and sometimes I don't get back to her quick enough because I don't check the blog as much as I check my email

SandraS: and you can join the group

SandraS: one thing I've seen and heard from other is that blogs really help the more quiet students

KarynL: it wont let me click on the green i

SandraS: did you select my name?

SandraS: highlight it?

KarynL: I totally agree with that quiet student comment

KarynL: yes I did

ChrisSho: Karyn, maybe you can find a way to get her to just "write to the whole class" my generally, and then you won't feel obligated to always comment back to her.

SandraS: another way to get to the group, Karyn, is to click on Search at top of window

SandraS: then click on Groups

SandraS: then enter WriteTalk

SandraS: it should come right up

SandraS: and then you can join that way

SandraS: would it be helpful to dedicate the next WriteTalk to a Gaggle.net?

SandraS: folks could start using it and bring their experiences and questions?

StephaniLN: Sounds good to me.

KarynL: that would be great

SandraS: We could discuss the ways the interface facilitates all kinds of writing...

SandraS: Great!

StephaniLN: When is the next time, because I might be able to get the high school teacher in my district to log on at the same time too and give more information since she uses it too.

SandraS: oh, great!

SandraS: the next meeting is the second Thursday of May

SandraS: let me see what that date is...

StephaniLN: Thanks.

BJB2: May 8

StephaniLN: Same time too 8:00PM

SandraS: thanks, BJ

SandraS: yes...it's always the second Thursday from 8-9 central

StephaniLN: Central standard time

SandraS: yes...

BJB2 . o O (depends on your time zone ;-))

StephaniLN: Thanks

SandraS: and Stephanie, since you already use Gaggle.net, you could be a co-leader of the discussion...

StephaniLN: How else do people do journal writing?

SandraS . o O (no pressure)

StephaniLN: OK

SandraS: I'll email!

BJB2: Thanks everyone for participating in the discussion. Thanks, Sandy, for leading the discussion.

SusanR: Thanks Sandra..great session

StephaniLN: Thanks

SandraS applauds BJ and Susan and Jeff for their help!

ElizabethC: Thanks. I learned a lot.

KarynL: thank you for the great ideas

BJB2 waves goodnight

SandraS: Thanks everyone for sharing your expertise!

ElizabethC: Goodnight.

StephaniLN: It is funny that I will be assisting the next discussion when this only my first week of using Tapped IN

SandraS: We tend to do that here....

KarynL: I have a question....sorry

SandraS: if you're willing to jump in...

SandraS: yes, Karyn?

KarynL: I would like to copy and paste this discussion or save it somewhere...it won't give me those options.

StephaniLN: It is no big deal. I like to help people learn new things.

SandraS: Karyn, you'll get an email transcript

KarynL: but am I logged into the group?

SandraS: as a member of Tapped In, every time you come on, you'll see your transcript in your email

SandraS: doesn't matter if you're a member of any group

SandraS: any interaction is logged for you and sent to your email address

SandraS: it's a great service!

KarynL: great thanks!

SandraS: yeah, Stephanie! the definition of a teacher...helping others learn new things......

SandraS: ok, y'all...thanks so much for your input

SandraS: I look forward to our next session!

StephaniLN: I know. But teaching teachers is different a little bit.

SandraS: And I'll post something to the discussion board to give folks a heads-up

StephaniLN: But we all have to learn something new everyday.

SandraS: I think teaching teachers can be more fun...

SandraS: because whatever we learn, we're always thinking about how to apply it in the classroom

SandraS: makes for a dynamic interchange

StephaniLN: Thanks for a great discussion.

SandraS: Thank you!

SandraS: have a great evening!

StephaniLN: You too

SandraS jumps on her hoverboard and whooshes off...