

Greater Phoenix Area Writing Project

SHARING A WRITING ACTIVITY



*Tell me, and I'll forget.
Show me, and I may not remember.
Involve me, and I'll understand...*

The purposes of sharing a writing activity are:

1. To demonstrate a teaching practice that has been successful in your classroom.
2. To hold our teaching practices up to the light, reflect on them and refine them.
3. To develop an in-service plan for your school or district.
4. To involve us in a meaningful writing activity

In approximately 45-60 minutes, involve us in a writing activity and take us through the steps of the process as you would with your students. You may also want to share some examples of your students' work with us and identify what happened for them as they completed the writing and worked through the process. This should be more than just an isolated "activity." It should connect to, or be a part of a larger unit, theme, or skill set. Because many districts are now focusing on state and district standards, show us how the lesson aligns to the standards for writing. Show us how the lesson:

- connects to students' prior knowledge
- draws on the reading / writing / speaking / listening connection

An effective demonstration of a writing activity

- ◆ *is tied to specific course objectives, as well as state/district standards*
- ◆ *requires thinking beyond recall*
- ◆ *has a clearly worded task—often broken into steps*
- ◆ *has a clearly stated audience, form and purpose*
- ◆ *includes a pre-writing activity (reading, writing, speaking, listening)*
- ◆ *allows time for participants to write*
- ◆ *provides an opportunity to work with peers*
- ◆ *provides a publishing opportunity*
- ◆ *includes evaluation criteria (students know expectations)*
- ◆ *includes a reasonable timeline monitored by teacher*
- ◆ *addresses the reading-writing-speaking-listening connection*

Evaluation:

You will also want to design an evaluation instrument requesting the feedback you desire from your audience of teachers. Fifteen minutes following your presentation will be devoted to discussion of your presentation and observations of how theory translates into practice. As a group we will talk about the effectiveness of your lesson, as well as how this writing activity might be adapted for various grade levels. *Evaluation tools.*

Preparation:

Please arrange to meet with Pam, Jim, or Elizabeth to plan and talk about your presentation at least a week before you are scheduled. We will be available in the morning, at lunch, or at the end of the day. You are also encouraged to use your writing/peer group time on Thursday afternoon to plan and work through your sharing.

Videoing:

We are planning to videotape your sharing. Please make sure you have filled out a "video release" form. These videos will be used for instructional purposes, and will be available for you to watch for self-evaluation.