

Log- June 25, 2007

The early birds decided that Bob should make the coffee. Nancy and Joni cajoled him into capitulation.

Journal Sharing Time-

Irene read about an encounter with a snooty McDonald's clerk. She had a talk with the manager about the clerk's rude behavior and offensive attire. She's pulling our declining society out of the dumpster one establishment at a time. We then had a humorous conversation about other situations with store clerks. Thanks, Irene for starting our day off with a laugh.

Posting to the E-Anthology

You can get there through the San Antonio Writing Project site or go directly to the National Writing Project Site. From the **SAWP** site, go to SAWP interactive, then NWP interactive. We all have passwords and Lennie says there is a link on the site if we forget our passwords. From the profile page, log on to the e-anthology page. Once the e-anthology is open, you can click on open mic. It is possible to find the writing just from the San Antonio Writing Project. There is a "post new" designation. Open it to post your writing. You can copy and paste the story in the body of the email. Sheryll discussed the different features available for posting to the e-anthology and receiving feedback. She is excited about posting her work, because the feedback she sees from folks in writer's projects all over the country energizes her. Thanks Lennie, Nora, and Sheryll for sharing this information!

Log

Katherine shared the log. For all her humility, Katherine captured the mood and sequence of the day. Such detail! Such elucidation! Bravo Katherine!

Announcements

Nora reminded us that Diane Bertrand is coming tomorrow and needs cash for her books. *Trino's Choice* is one of her books, and we can take them home to read before she comes if we like.

Roxanne reminded us that Miguel Guhlin is coming Wednesday, and we are going to Kalpana's house on Thursday, where Jon Bonham will speak.

Jennifer brought some charts about U.S. media that show how publications intertwine with one another. The chart reveals that there are six companies worldwide where all media is concentrated, and Jennifer says the information shows the links politicians have to these companies.

For more information the web go to www.corporations.org/media/

Kalpana's Demonstration

Kalpana is sooo smart! In addition, through the activities she led us through, it is obvious that she really does care about a learner-centered environment in her classroom. After a brief discussion of how she uses linguistics and semantics in her classroom, we walked through **A learner-centered approach to teaching *Things Fall Apart***. Kalpana uses this lesson in her freshman composition class. The lesson started with an anticipatory set of topics to ponder and write about.

Kalpana says that Sheridan Blau, president of the National Writing Projects thinks teachers should model writing assignments for their students, so she modeled the assignment and shared her response with us.

She then shared the guided writing prompts she uses with her students, as well as a cool characterization exercise and an exercise dealing with the proverbs in the book. The proverb she used as an example was: As the Ibo say, "When the moon is shining, the cripple becomes hungry for a walk." After reading some chapter's from the book, Ruben's table shared, "A man who pays respect to the great paves the way for his own greatness." The contribution from Katherine's table: "Looking at a king's mouth, one would think he never sucked at his mother's breast." Nancy, Aurelia, and Roxanne's table contributed, "Our elders say the sun will shine on those who kneel under them." (guys, I'm not sure I got that quote right- kneel under who? The elders?) Each activity fostered great discussion in the group. Kalpana discussed the purposes of proverbs in the novel. I like that she listed possible purposes for the novel before inviting her students to contribute their own ideas for the novel. I like that she really discusses the characteristics of this type of novel as well, and that the writing in her class connects to what they are reading.

Kalpana also touched on information on cooperative learning, and Roxanne said we would examine some more research on group learning next week. Nora and Sheryll both said they would use proverbs in their classrooms. Nancy liked using the writing prompts to lead in to a reading assignment. She went on to say that she thinks everything Kalpana would be adaptable to elementary school. Aurelia likes the Semantics, and said things like Word Walls and denotation and connotation, and context are important when teaching ELL learners. Irene says ELL students would be attracted to political topics, or topics related to oppression or race and that she would use it when she teaches *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Kim uses *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak in order to open discussion of postcolonialism. Jennifer mentioned *My First Book of Proverbs* by Ralfka Gonzalez, as an avenue to teach context. She says the proverbs are in English and Spanish in this book. Nancy mentioned how beneficial anticipation guides were to ELL students.

Lunch: 12:35-1:05

Writing 1:10-2:10

Response Groups 2:10-2:45

Research Groups 2:45-3:15

Announcements

-**Roxanne** says that we're almost done with SAWP and that she'll be sad to see it end. She says that we need to start figuring out what we want to put on the cover of our anthology, and that we should all bring ideas for the cover to class.

-**Nora** reminded us to tell Kalpana what we plan to bring to her house for Thursday's lunch.

-**Kalpana** said not to drive over 35 mph in her subdivision, because the fine is \$200. ouch!

-**Roxanne** said we are going to discuss some more of the issues that Aurelia brought up in her demonstration last week, and that we should start listing the things we wish to discuss on the board.