

## Lee Ann Spillane's Sample Workshop Descriptions

### Assessment/Learning

#### **How Do You Know?** Initial Assessments that Drive Instruction

How do you assess what students know and are able to do? This workshop will explore the use of data snapshots, surveys, inventories, letters, and other initial assessments that help teachers build rapport and understand where their students are as instruction begins. Participants will examine sample assessments to create mock instructional plans for language arts students. During the workshop, we will brainstorm and discuss ways to assess students' background knowledge, strengths, and needs across content areas and grade levels.

#### **Tools That Lead to Independence:** Logs, Academic Journals & Graphic Organizers

What is the "gradual release of responsibility"? How can I encourage students to think for themselves? We will discuss these questions by examining three tools: learning logs, academic journals, and graphic organizers. This workshop will offer hands-on practice with many of the tools used to teach vocabulary. Learn how flexible tools can help students regulate their own learning. Small groups will examine students' academic journals. We will also discuss the purpose of logs, academic journals, and graphic organizers across content areas and grade levels.

#### **H.O.T. Teaching Every Day:** *Make Higher Order Thinking Concrete for K-12 Students*

How do you think? What type of learner are you? How can you foster "Higher Order Thinking" in your classroom? Learn how to inspire students to discuss thinking and learning. From white-boarding in science to "What do you notice?" in math or social studies, we will discuss and practice a variety of activities for all content areas to inspire higher order, independent and even authentic thinking! We will also engage in labeling and sculpting our thinking process as we problem solve and read. Come learn how to encourage a culture of thinking in your classroom!

### Reading

#### **Comprehending Content:** *Building Understanding through Strategic Instruction*

How can I scaffold reading comprehension for my students? What tools can we use to build comprehension as we read together? We will practice strategies to help students comprehend text before, during and after reading. This workshop includes hands on practice with strategies such as admit slips, predict-o-grams, concept ladders, quick writing, word study and more. Find out how your students can beat the odds by embedding standardized test practice into authentic content area reading.

#### **Finding the Magic Peer to Peer: Successful Literature Circle Strategies for All**

From pre-circle book talks to post reading assessments, learn successful management tools that support students learning through literature circles. How can you support book

choice? What can “role sheets” tell you about student learning? We will define literature circles, assess students’ samples and practice literature circles with nonfiction. Leave this workshop with record keeping and assessment ideas that will lead to literature circle success.

### **Reading Rocks! How Can You Make Independent Reading Work with Nonfiction?**

How can you encourage students to read nonfiction on their own? What should you be doing while students are reading independently? Join us to explore answers to these questions. From the pre-reading book talk to the post-reading assessment, learn successful organizational and management tools that support independent reading. Learn how knowing students and modeling reading help teachers avoid common pitfalls of sustained silent reading time. Take home recordkeeping and assessment ideas that will organize and manage independent reading in any classroom.

### **Reading Nonfiction: The Ins and Outs of Strategic Teaching**

How can you scaffold reading comprehension for students? What tools can you use to build comprehension as you read nonfiction? We will practice strategies to help students comprehend text before, during and after reading. This workshop includes hands on practice with strategies designed to increase comprehension.

### **Soar With Shared Reading: *Strategies that Support Comprehension***

How can I scaffold reading comprehension for my students? What tools can we use to build comprehension as we read together? We will discuss ways to help student comprehend text before, during and after read. This workshop includes daily strategy practice ideas such as picture it!, summary-response logs and ways you can incorporate standardized test practice by tailoring modeled test questions to the books you read. Learn to make shared reading an enriching learning experience for students. We will start with anticipation guides created from “the back of the book” and end with culminating pieces such as poetic connections that help you encourage and foster student synthesis of new material.

## **Professional Development**

### **Time Out! Coaching to Support Effective Instruction**

What does it take to support effective classroom instruction? What tools do you have in your gym bag? This workshop, specifically for coaches, will addresses coaching issues such as finding resources, demonstration lessons and mentoring.

### **Nurturing Real Readers: *Building Reading Capacity One Teacher at a Time***

What gets in the way of professional reading at your school? What structures do you have in place to encourage reading? How do you develop a reading culture at your school? What does an effective reading program look like? How can your teachers create a reading climate in their own classrooms? The workshop will begin with a problem/solution discussion about what gets in the way of creating a reading culture at

school. We will share titles, and practice concrete strategies, coaches and administrators can use to share books with faculty.

**The RWC: *A Reading-Writing Center for Secondary Schools***

What is a Reading-Writing Center? How could one be staffed? Learn how to develop your own Reading-Writing Center. This workshop will examine the RWC model that is being implemented at University High School in Orlando, Florida. We will discuss using student tutors and teacher resources to deliver quality reading and writing interventions as well as embedded professional development to students and teachers school wide. Finally, brainstorm topics that you could develop into reading or writing module lessons for your faculty.

**Creating Connected Cohesive Curricula: *Working With Mandates and Sacred Cows in Language Arts***

What does cohesive curriculum mean? What does connected curriculum look like? How can you encourage teachers to take ownership of what they teach? From reading strategies, to the five paragraph essay, to vocabulary study, examine how teachers can work within school or department mandates to create connected curricula for students that is authentic and engaging.

**What Worked? *Encouraging Reflective Practice***

What is reflective teaching? How can a school or building develop a reflective culture? Learn how to develop the habit of reflection in yourself and in those you lead. Practice questioning as you watch a teaching video and learn how video taping can be used to strengthen teaching teams. This workshop will give you practice using a plus/delta system of analysis, writing in a teaching journal, and reflecting on professional reading.

## **Technology**

**Integrating Technology: *Media Literacy for the Millennium and Beyond***

Do your students print information from the internet and call it their own? Are you a tech-savvy teacher? This workshop will explore a myriad of multi-media ideas appropriate for all content areas. Encourage your students to evaluate the validity of the information they read on the Internet. Teach them to become discerning surfers by using the five finger method of evaluating web sites. Show them how to avoid plagiarizing information. Learn how you can use the Internet to develop creative and critical thinking lessons for your students! We will investigate web sites, evaluate them, and cite them. Learn how to extend student knowledge with authentic multi-media tasks.

**Holy C.O.W.!? *Managing and Making the Most of Computers on Wheels***

Make the most using computer carts in your classroom. This workshop explores computer management issues such as assigning machines to students and tracking

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hardware issues. We will also explore ways to use your C.O.W. to make an impact on writing in the classroom.

### **What's a Wiki? Exploring Web 2.0**

Blogs, wikis, networks? Oh my! What is Web 2.0 and how is it different from the Internet we know and love? This workshop will explore several Web 2.0 tools. We will begin with social bookmarking and Google before moving on to explore blogs and wikis. Learn how these tools motivate and support student readers and writers.

### **Podcasting 101**

You've had students present information in front of the class. Perhaps they've even created a video or power point presentation. Want to learn something new? Add podcasting to your repertoire with this workshop on the basics. Learn where podcasts live online, how you can use them in your classroom and how to create one of your own" using free software found on the Internet.

### **Want a Web Page?**

No need to know the code, learn how to use WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) applications such as Google Pages to create your own web page. Learn how to create your own web page; it's as easy as point, type and click. In this workshop we will also explore effect web page elements and page management issues such as naming, linking and updating.

## **Writing**

### **Being the Bridge: *From Real World Writing to Test Prep***

Transform those early narrative pieces into essays: expository and persuasive. Show students how to go from writing story to writing essays. This workshop will share effective planning and drafting strategies that can be applied to any type of writing. We will also discuss how to deepen students' knowledge of writing craft by teaching students writing conventions, such as transitions and paragraph structure. We will look at sample papers and discuss how you foster writing independence by teaching students to evaluate themselves and each other.

### **Grammar for Dummies! *What is Teaching Grammar in Context?***

What does teaching grammar in context look like? How much time does it take? In this workshop we will discuss what it means to teach grammar in context. Examine grammar through three lesson structures: deductive thinking exercises, mini-lessons, and extended mini-lessons. Participants will examine student writings and develop grammar mini-lessons. In addition, we will brainstorm ideas for helping students make grammar, and the rules of grammar, their own.

### **Jack of All Trades: *Journals of All Types for All Students***

Want to get your students writing? Want to see students thinking on paper? Want to try your hand at journal writing activities appropriate for all contents? We will write a variety of journal entries during this workshop and discuss how different types of journals or learning logs can foster authentic talk and writing fluency in all content classrooms. We will discuss academic journals, reading journals, essay journals, and more! Boost accountable talk and authentic learning in your classroom! We will also discuss how to manage the paper load!

### **Learning to Write ~Writing to Learn:**

#### ***Scaffolding for Beginning Writers as the Pen Meets the Paper***

How do you get your students to start writing? Tired of hearing "I'm thinking" when you ask a student to start writing? Learn how to scaffold writing for students so that they can jump into the process and increase their written output. This workshop will share writing strategies to use before, during, and after the pen hits the paper. Specifically, our discussions will move from timed think-writes to RAFT writing to gradually releasing responsibility for evaluation to the students as we explore ways to enrich your curriculum with writing.

### **See What I Mean? *Writing Photo Essays with Students***

Want to engage students in meaningful nonfiction writing? Looking for a way to make writing relevant to students' lives? Teach students how to write a photo essay! From generating a topic, to planning and drafting, this workshop will explore writing photo essays with students. We will write from photo-sets but also discuss how you can use student generated photography to spur writing. We will wrap up by previewing photo-essay titles you can use with students and by listing lessons student photo-journalists need to succeed.

**Write With Me! *Crafting a Classroom Writing Community from the Ground Up***

This workshop builds on what we learned about students through initial assessments by focusing on building community through writing. Participants will write narratives and discuss how such writing and sharing builds your classroom community. Focus on the writing process and how you can use narrative writing to develop and institute a culture of thinking in your classroom. We will draw, think, write and share during our time together.