

Washington Language Arts Council 2014 Conference

QUESTIONS REGARDING INSTRUCTION						
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Response Count
The course had clearly defined goals and outcomes.	5	4	0	0	0	9
Stated goals were met.	5	4	0	0	0	9
Content and pacing were appropriate.	5	4	0	0	0	9
There was ample opportunity for interaction among participants.	6	3	0	0	0	9
Written materials were relevant and useful.	6	3	0	0	0	9
The physical facilities were suitable to instructional design.	8	1	0	0	0	9
answered question						9

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE INSTRUCTOR(S) OR FACILITATOR(S)						
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A	Response Count
The course was well organized and prepared.	6	3	0	0	0	9
The instructor used effective teaching strategies.	6	3	0	0	0	9
The instructor managed the learning environment effectively.	5	4	0	0	0	9
The instructor had a thorough knowledge of the subject.	6	3	0	0	0	9
answered question						9

How will you apply the course content to your current job assignment? (skip if not applicable)

I have used some of Dave Barry's writing techniques for instructional purposes. His organizers have been specifically helpful moving into argument writing requirements of the CCSS.

I've already used tools that I've learned in the classroom

I learned quite a bit about effective grading and have already begun applying a four point rubric to help make standards based scoring more workable for my classes and our district's grading program.

I am currently applying changes in my grading practices/philosophy according to one of the sessions I went to: Jeff Halstead's session based on his book, "The Power of Excellence."

Use activities presented to improve student writing achievement!

Which skills, strategies, and/or lessons taught at the WLAC conference are you using in your teaching or planning to use this school year to help your students read and/or write nonfiction texts?

Writing activities and strategies that will help my students become more fluent writers.

The organizers shared for writing.

argumentative, writing organizers and stepping the lessons, binoculars for expanding an idea, online resources

I am using Newsela to find GL and ability level appropriate texts and their assessments.

Writing activities of all sorts.

What is an example of a project or performance task that you are designing or have designed to help students achieve on performance assessments?

6 word memoirs and journal writing

My students are working on a series of performance tasks related to our local riparian environment which should help prepare them for the state assessment.

Separating Academic Responsibility (doing work thoroughly and ontime) to the Quality of the Assignment. I am now giving content-related feedback and grades on an assignment, no matter if it is late or incomplete, and lowering scores for the Academic Responsibility "assessment" category for such problems.

Incorporation of narrative elements into expository and argumentative essays.

What are you doing differently in the classroom as a result of the WLAC conference to build student confidence in writing?

I have added more writing and mentor texts to my classroom activities

Creating opportunity to write every day, including non graded writing connected to students reading.

I am less likely to fill students' papers with a myriad of corrections and am trying to use song and interactive play into writing activities.

Devoting more time, structure, and creativity.

Are you making an effort to collaborate with your non-LA peers and/or preparing lessons that are multi-disciplinary?

yes, particularly in social studies

I have delivered a professional development series I helped to create with the Regional Literacy Coordinators from around the state of Washington which asks for teams of ELA and History to attend together.

Yes

Yes

Yes.

Other comments or suggestions:

Need more offerings. This year's conference had a key note speaker that was politically negative in a way that I didn't like. Otherwise, he had some good information and activities.

I continue to enjoy and value my WALAC experiences :)