



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
2002-2003

FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

Title of Study Group: Peer to Peer

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

The initial goal of our group was to bring English teachers together from the various grade levels to engage in stimulating literary discussions with the ultimate goal of improving instruction. The only adjustment we had to make during the duration of our meetings was scaling back on everything we wanted to do. Our enthusiasm clouded the realities of time constraints within each meeting. However, we decided that once our grant ran out, we would still go forth with on-going literary discussions.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

The action plan was implemented around each teacher's unique expertise. We allowed every teacher to determine his/her areas of talent ranging from classic literature to poetry to contemporary works to multicultural pieces to literary archetypes among others. Then each teacher individually determined the method he/she would utilize for the presentation. Every participant was given copies of the material in advance as preparation for the presentation.

During each presentation, the group actively participated in a Socratic Seminar with the presenter anchoring the discussion. The literary discussions were often lively, engaging and intellectually spirited. We concluded each meeting by brainstorming ideas, methods, and ways in which to implement the material into our classrooms with the ultimate goal of improving instruction.

Armed with the literary materials and enhanced enrichment of knowledge, each teacher eagerly returned to his/her classroom to share with students the literature and ideas previously discussed.

What methods were used to evaluate your original intended results?

The methods that we used to evaluate our original intended results were two-fold. The participants' use of the materials in the class. Was it used or discarded? We found that we overwhelmingly chose to use the new materials to resounding success. The students were

eager to be exposed to different materials not normally taught at that particular level. Secondly, we used these new tools for literary analysis in the classroom. These new tools added an enrichment component to literary analysis discussions.

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

- What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?
- What evidence is there that teaching practices have changed?
- What evidence is there that student achievement is improving?

The evidence that we have to support the fact that the goals of our study group have been met was simple. We found ourselves changing the development of lesson plans to incorporate the lesson learned within our study group. We now provide lessons that are reflective of the new knowledge.

We have changed our teaching practices by introducing new works into our curriculum based on what we shared and learned within our study group. This allowed us to provide an opportunity to broadly expand our students literary horizons to a degree that would not have been possible without the formation of our study group.

We have strong evidence to support the fact that our students' achievement, across the board, have been significantly improved as a direct result of the knowledge we gained from participation in our study group. Our students writing reflects a deeper understanding of the works because of the new ideas and techniques learned and shared during our study group that are now incorporated into our daily lessons.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

The value of the process of our study group can't be underestimated. It allowed us to meet when it was convenient for all involved. The extended time period gave us the flexibility to reschedule any meetings necessary and still be able to accomplish everything we set out to do. We highly recommend it.