



**The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County**  
**Teacher Study Group Grant Award**  
**Summer 2009-2010**  
**FINAL REPORT**  
**DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES**

**STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Writer's Workshop**

**List of group members: Sarah Comfort, Lindsay Rueffer, and Janice Vercolen**

**The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and through e-mail using this form. Contact [kharasta@btbooces.org](mailto:kharasta@btbooces.org) for the electronic version of this form. Include information under each of the following headings.**

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

Our initial objectives were to implement an effective “Writer’s Workshop” program that engages students, enhances the content, and improves the mechanics of our students’ writing skills. As time passed, we realized that we needed to focus on teaching the writer and not the writing. This was made evident through our group discussions, the books we read, and the workshop that we attended.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

Our action plan was for the three of us to come together with our prior knowledge on writer’s workshop and share with each other how we set up our writer’s workshop the prior year. We then discussed what worked well and what we wanted to change. Over the course of the summer, we developed a writing program that will help us create writing units that will target our struggling writers and at the same time help all students find an interest in becoming better writers. We also attended a workshop.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

Our study group met five times over the course of the summer. Each meeting was four hours long. We used three resources: *A Quick Guide to Reaching Struggling Writers (K-5)*, *Writer’s Workshop*, and *Tools for Writing*. In addition to these resources, we also used our *Reading Street* series. All of our group members attended the teacher center’s August third workshop called “Writer’s Workshop.” This workshop was presented by Sarah Evans and Denise England, both from the Vestal School District.

Evaluate the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.  
How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?

We recreated our writer's workshop program and we now have a different approach to it. We created a writer's workshop that will keep students engaged and interested. "Teach the writer, not the writing."

What evidence do you expect to see of student achievement improving as a result of your participating in this study group?

Because our writer's workshop program is structured in such a way that students are only focusing on one to two areas directly related to their writing needs, we expect to see our students improving in these specific areas.

What evidence is there that the objectives of the study group has/has not been met?

We feel we have exceeded our initial expectations in that we developed a writer's workshop which took into account the fourth grade curriculum. The program is manageable, has an element of choice for students, and is setup in such a way that all students, regardless of ability, will be successful and grow in their writing. We have a finished copy of our writer's workshop units, with a question or project for each Reading Street story, we created a writer's notebook, and we created logs for each of our students.

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

Collaborating with our new fourth grade team has benefited our teaching practices and improved our compatibility. There is now a more structured writing curriculum for the entire fourth grade. It did work for us and we look forward to improving this program in years to come.

How will the study group information be shared?

Our study group information will be shared by creating a book that will be stored in our

teachers' resource area of the library.

A final report is due one week after the last meeting or by August 13, 2009, whichever date is first. The report must be typed and double-spaced using the provided form,. One copy must be submitted in print and the file must be submitted through e-mail to [kharasta@btbooces.org](mailto:kharasta@btbooces.org). Return to **THE TEACHER CENTER of Broome County @ WSKG, BOCES #22.**