



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: The Freedom Writers Talk Reader's Workshop
Name: Suzy DeLeon
Other Team Members: Erica Deakins, Kimberly Hays, Trina Hill
Program: Greater Houston Area Program
Trip Dates: 07/01/2012 - 07/08/2012
Location Visited: New York City, United States
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 01

Project Summary: Over the course of the past two years, our school had implemented the Reading Workshop model developed by the Teachers' College at Columbia University. As a community, we felt that we'd acquired a basic understanding of this model. By altering classroom environments, establishing classroom libraries, creating schedules that support the workshop, and building a professional learning community with both colleagues and administrators, we had begun laying the foundation for a diversified literacy curriculum. However, we felt that we needed to gain intense professional development in order to move to the next level of growth.

This summer, we had the amazing opportunity to move forward in our thinking and deepen our understanding of the Reading Workshop by participating in a week-long reading institute at the Teacher's College. The experience was surreal to say the least. We were able to engage in meaningful discussions, attend sessions with leaders in the field of reading instruction, and participate in hands-on activities such as curriculum planning and reading assessments.

We were inspired, motivated, and eager to continue our learning as teachers. The knowledge and experience that we have brought back with use has been immeasurable. We returned home armed with real-world examples of the Reading Workshop and have already implemented many of the lessons, anchor charts, and assessments tools learned at the institute and can already see first-hand the positive impact it has had on our teachers and students.

Career Impact: * Allowed our team to obtain concrete examples of differentiated instruction in reading.
* Deepened our understanding of the architecture of the Reading Workshop.
* Provided explicit examples of reading anchor charts to support students' reading development.
* Assisted our team with the development of our reading curriculum for all grade levels.
* Prepared us with the tools necessary to engage in one-to-one reading instruction with students.
* Revitalized our passion for continued growth and learning.

Classroom/Community Impact:* Students are engaging in meaningful reading mini-lessons.
* Students participate in relevant reading workstation activities.
* Students engage in authentic conversations about books during Reader's Workshop.
* Students are engaging in authentic reading workshop work across curricular areas.
* Teachers are better equipped and more knowledgeable about the reading workshop approach and find value in the work across all grade levels.
* A love of reading is being instilled in all subject areas and the valuable work being done in reading and writing workshop is being extended across curricular areas.

Open Response: * Continued professional development for teachers in areas such as the architecture of a mini-lesson, differentiated reading assessment, and reading best practices.
* Teachers will meet as a grade level and as a faculty to share and support one another during the implementation of the Reader's Workshop.
* Teachers will keep a reflection notebook to record the progress of both teacher and students during Reader's Workshop.
* Continued professional development of integral elements of the reading workshop architecture and the further extension of the depth of our reading curriculum and the extension of this work across curricular areas.

Quote: "Teach with a joyful heart and spirit." Kathy Collins

Photos:



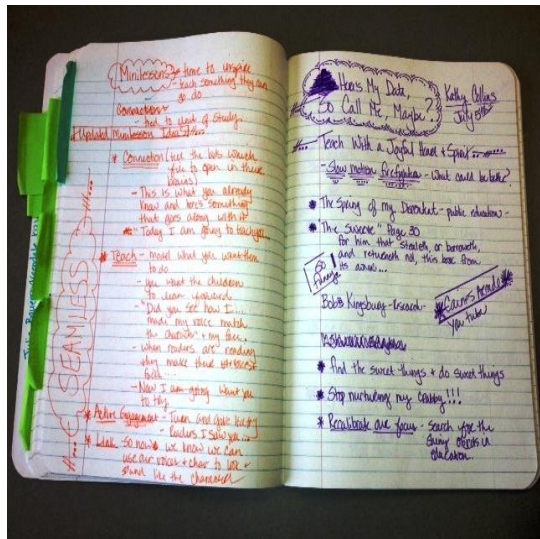
Teachers College at Columbia University. This was our classroom for the week!



Erica and Kim are two fellows excited to be learning from the best in NYC!



Suzie is browsing children's books in between sessions.



We all kept very detailed Reader's Notebooks to capture our learning.



This is an example of an anchor chart shared during one of our sessions.



Students engage in private reading during Reader's Workshop.



Students practicing with their partners during Reader's Workshop.



The amazing and talented Kathy Collins was one of our keynote speakers!