

Eastern Illinois
Writing Project

2008-2010

Miscellaneous Anthology

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Angel Baumann - Technology Grant Proposal

1. Proposal Summary

Technology has become an excellent tool to increase students' participation and interaction. In their daily lives, students are interacting more and more with different hi-tech gadgets, from e-mail accounts to cell phones, from computer games to iPods. In order to get their attention teachers also need to update their learning tools. Additionally, the use of technology allows teachers and students to better grasp concepts, ideas, practices, and activities.

In the process of acquiring a second language, technology gives students the opportunity to enhance their understanding of words, grammar points, and cultures in a more precise way, because it involves them in hands-on activities like matching, finding words, and looking at real pictures, creating authentic scenarios . There are many instruments that can be used and there are different forms of using them, but I have used and would like to have available in my classroom a LCD projector, a SmartBoard, speakers, and a Chalkboard (Air-Liner).

2. Introduction of the Organization

I recently became a Spanish teacher at Charleston High School in Charleston, Illinois. I taught Spanish for five years at Mattoon High School. During those years I experienced a change in my teaching that affected my students' interest in learning a foreign language. Instead of asking students to translate words, or to repeat them, students would look at a picture big enough for everyone to see and they would tell me the word, describe the picture or give me a sentence using that object. Through these few years as a teacher I found technology, or the other way around, technology found me.

As a Spanish teacher, I have experienced how the use of technological tools increases students' achievement, because they are motivated to practice, to do as they learn, so they find learning a second language fun. Also technology saves time by allowing teachers to prepare material and examples that will appear with a click of the mouse. It provides more time for practice and assessing what students are learning as they work on activities. Instead of spending countless hours preparing posters, games, or writing activities that could be fun, using technology keeps me from drawing, coloring, cutting and gluing, or creating jeopardy games with envelopes. I can create, update, and transform the same material according to each chapter by using technology.

Using technology also saves space; a classroom with less clutter provides a suitable learning environment. In the long run, this will also save money, because the expenses for classroom materials (posters, crayons, markers, chalk, etc) will be lower.

When I started using technology in my classroom, I became better prepared for the school day, because even though technology makes learning fun and facilitates instruction, it does not come magically. It requires preparation. It becomes more than "open your books on page 10 and tell me what you think or learn from that."

Your foundation has continually helped teachers in the district make a difference in students' learning by implementing technology in their classrooms. I know that learning a foreign language is similar to learning a math concept. Foreign language students must also learn the structure and formulas, and students deserve to be taught at a high level of interest in this and any other content area.

3. Proposal Budget

Here are the four items I would like to have:

LCD projector (Liquid Crystal Display) projector.

Portrays any information or picture from a computer to a screen or a SmartBoard. All students in the classroom are able to participate in a discussion by getting the same information at the same time.

(Includes cables and mount equipment) \$ 830.00

Speakers portable speakers \$ 215.00

SmartBoard Interactive white board.

A white board that can be used as a computer screen, whatever you can do at the computer you can do at the board, where your finger becomes the computer mouse and keyboard.

\$1400.00

CPS Chalkboard This functions as a wireless mouse, with the capability of writing on the board from anywhere in the classroom. This helps to monitor Students use of the Smartboard, and also allows teacher to move around the classroom to keep track of students engagement.

\$ 350.00

Shipping and handling \$ 75.00

TOTAL **\$2870.00**

3. Problem Statement

At Charleston Middle School students are put in different technology-friendly settings. They work with Power Point presentations. Thanks to your foundation, students have hands-on experiences learning science, and they work with several Internet-based programs. As they come to the high school, students should enhance their experience with material and equipment at their level of interest. I know that some teachers have already started this process at Charleston High School, and I would love to be part of that.

4. Project Objectives

One of my goals as a Spanish teacher is to motivate students to learn the language and increase their appreciation for other cultures. I want to use more time practicing a concepts with fun activities rather than asking students to write words that have no real meaning for them. Technology makes these goals attainable.

I also want to provide an appropriate learning environment. Students should have a clean environment with no extra visual aids on top of cabinets, or poster games around the room. They should enjoy a safe environment “cordless” from the use of overhead projectors in the middle of the room. They should benefit from a fun environment with activities that challenge their knowledge and that provide the teacher with immediate feedback. Technology brings all this together.

5. Assessment

Students will fill out a survey at the end of each semester about different activities they encountered using technology. They will also write a paragraph about the class format and their ideas on how to improve it; or if they did not see any difference at all using technology.

6. Future funding

This project does not require future funding. The High School will take care of the biannual bulb replacement in the LCD projector.

Rachel Stuart – Letter to Parents

August 14, 2008

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to Team 8A! We are extremely excited to work with both you and your student during this upcoming school year. In order to better assist your student, we have a favor to ask of you. Since no one knows your child better than you do, we are seeking your words of wisdom in regard to your child.

What is your student like at home? What subject does he/she like? Which subject poses the most difficulty for your child? How does he/she learn best? What are his/her interests? Can we do something specific to help him/her in our classrooms? What other information would you like us to know about your child?

Please take a few minutes to write a letter to us that best describes your student. This will allow us to help your child throughout the school year. You may write just a few short sentences, or feel free to write as much as you like. We have asked that the students return this letter to Mrs. Stuart by Friday, August 22. If you could also include contact information such as email this would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for taking the time to introduce your child to our team. We will work together to make this school year a success. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email us right away. The school number is 238-5800. We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Team 8A

Steve Conlon sconliniu@mattoon.k12.il.us

Michelle Crary crarym@mattoon.k12.il.us

Rachel Stuart stuartra@mattoon.k12.il.us

Rachel Stuart - Writing Project Summer Chronology

Are you as Smart as a National Writing Project Participant?

Chronology

By:

Rachel Stuart

QUESTION #1

Every morning we begin by spending time in reflection and writing whatever comes to mind. This time is known as.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION #1

SACRED WRITING

QUESTION #2

Following sacred writing on Monday, Christy showed a fabulous power point where she recapped Thursday's event. This daily activity is called.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION #2

CHRONOLOGY

QUESTION #3

After Christy's chronology, the writing groups got together to work on.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION #3

GROUP PROJECT

QUESTION #4

Yesterday, we had a lesson using pictures from the book *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*. We used dialogue as a strategy to improve our writing. This lesson was a

ANSWER TO QUESTION #4

DEMONSTRATION

QUESTION #5

After a lesson demonstration, all members of the class take time to express their feelings about the lesson. We call this process

ANSWER TO QUESTION #5

STARS & WISHES

QUESTION #6

After the demonstration on dialogue we had a few questions on the grammar rules so we

ANSWER TO QUESTION #6

CALLED THE GRAMMAR HELP HOTLINE

QUESTION #7

We then proceeded to discuss our upcoming celebration. Robin asked that we give her a list of people so that she could send

ANSWER TO QUESTION #7

INVITATIONS

QUESTION #8

With a little time left before our lunch break, we got back into our to on writing, projects, etc.

ANSWER TO QUESTION #8

GROUPS

QUESTION #9

At 12:00 we decided to either having a working..... or on our own.

ANSWER TO QUESTION #9

QUESTION #10

After lunch, we picked a book of our choice and began.....

ANSWER TO QUESTION #10

READING ALSO KNOWN AS A READ ALOUD OR READ AROUND

QUESTION #11

After the read around we had time for a or time to talk about anything interesting that we read.

ANSWER TO QUESTION #11

DISCUSSION

QUESTION #12

After our read around and discussion, amazed us with a hands-on, fun, and creative way to get the students up and moving.

ANSWER TO QUESTION #12

REBEKAH

QUESTION #13

ANSWER TO QUESTION #13

QUESTION #14

After our travel escapades, we wrote a piece about our experiences., one of our fearless leaders, shared her insight about Coleman Hall and the professors located within this building.

ANSWER TO QUESTION #14

CAROL

QUESTION #15

MC and Robin reminded us that we would meet at Coleman Hall on Tuesday before leaving for a writing crawl in the

ANSWER TO QUESTION #15

CEMENTARY

QUESTION #16

On Monday, our delicious snack was & brought by Vicki.

ANSWER TO QUESTION #16

POPCORN & PEANUTS

WE ARE AS SMART AS A NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT PARTICIPANT