



Collegial Circle Final Report

Please type in the information on this form, print it and send it to the Teacher Center along with the Collegial Circle copies in the check list below. Also, attach it to an email to Lynda McGuire to share in the Teacher Center's online Collegial Circle Library. Thank you for being a part in the effort to improve teaching and learning for our students.

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE INFORMATION

Vertical Alignment of Writing Units for Nonfiction (Expository and Persuasive/Opinion) genres for K to 5th Grades

Title of Circle: _____ Standards Area: ELA

Facilitator: David Wikiera and Dennise Zobel School(s): ACE

Beginning Date: Dec. 14, 2011 Ending Date: May 23, 2012 # of Hours: 7

Participants (list): Jason Juszczak, Kathleen Roser, Kathy Rudd, Ingrid Ferrara, Amy Pelletier, Joe Juzwiak, Josephine DiPasquale, Kelly Coiro, Maureen Norton, Debbie Keeley, Trish Sullivan, Judy Jameson-Kellogg, Lori Lusk, Rhonda Matthews, Margaret Joseph

Please attach copies of the following to this report:

- ✓ Collegial Circle Attendance Log (required for payment)
- ✓ Collegial Circle Meeting Log
- ✓ Log of Strategies Implemented
- ✓ Samples of implementation strategies or student work samples if applicable
- ✓ Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets (each member fills one out)

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE DESCRIPTION

(Type your answer in the grey box below the question. The size of the box will adjust to the length of your answer.)

What were the anticipated objectives of this Circle?

Participants analyzed samplings of the writing pieces from each grade in the genre of nonfiction (persuasive & expository). Exemplars were reviewed and discussions revolved around meaning, development, language, conventions, and organization). Common strands were identified, suggestions for instruction were identified, and additional questions were raised.

What grade level(s) and or subject area(s) would benefit from this Circle?

Kindergarten to 5th grade

FINAL REFLECTIONS

(Type your answer in the grey box below the question.)

Was the outcome/goal of this Collegial Circle met? Explain.

Yes, our outcomes were met. We gathered together monthly and had an opportunity to pour over writing samples from each grade. Exemplars were provided. Questions were asked and instructional features were identified. These included all grade levels. Several new questions surfaced by the end of the session. An atmosphere of collegiality, trust, and collaboration was established and highly effective in allowing everyone to feel comfortable in sharing what takes place in their classrooms during writing.

How did the Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met?

The outcomes were met when we collected our exemplars and could identify instructional practices in writing. We also were able to compare and contrast our writing units and identify new areas of growth and new questions were raised. The exemplars will establish a guideline for teachers to use when they are beginning new units in writing.

How did your work impact teaching/learning? Include student work samples, lesson plans, peer reviews, etc.

Teachers were highly motivated to see what happens in the grade above and below them. Many teachers took away new strategies and procedures to be used in teaching writing. Student samples are