



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

Title of Circle: Common Core ELA Standards and 4/5 Science Standards Area: Elementary Science
Facilitator: Donna Nichols School(s): AC, JR, MCE, PR, TR
Beginning Date: 9/18/2012 Ending Date: 5/8/2013 # of Hours: 9.5
Participants (list): Jean Squire-Gefell, Lynn Cruickshank, Patty Morse, Becky Nunn, Donna Nichols

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?

To purposefully add writing to the 4/5 science classrooms monitoring and adjusting as we try new lessons and writing prompts. To better understand "content" writing relative to the ELA CCLS.

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

Grades 4 and 5, science and ELA

FINAL REFLECTIONS

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

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

The science teachers spent a great deal of time finding ways to add writing to the existing science curriculum. Many different writing prompts and lessons were explored and discussed. Lessons were shared and reworked. We discussed ways to "model" good writing. Teachers increased their expectations of the quality of student writing in science class and held students responsible for meeting these increased expectations.

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

Based on student writing samples we have seen how these writing experiences have helped students articulate their understanding more clearly relying on data to support their writing. Students are beginning to understand that good writing is good writing regardless of what subject area you are writing in. We do feel that we still have some work to do in this area. Student work sample show how much work is still needed in helping students clearly articulate their science learning and not just regurgitate data.

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

Students understand and see that writing is important in science not just in their "homeroom", that writing has a purpose.

Comments/additional information to share.

It would be beneficial to continue this work next year as a collegial circle.