

Collegial Circle Final Report

Please complete all information on this form. After it is complete, send it to the Teacher Center along with other supporting documentation. Electronic copies are preferred whenever possible.

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE INFORMATION

Title of Circle: Abra-cadabra! Imagery and tone in Writing Standards Area: English L.A.
Facilitator: Monica Gebell School(s): SHS
Beginning Date: Oct. 2015 Ending Date: May 2016 # of Hours: 16

Please submit copies of the following to this report:

- ✓ Collegial Circle Attendance Log
- ✓ Collegial Circle Meeting Log
- ✓ Samples of strategies implemented, materials created, or student work samples where applicable
- ✓ Collegial Circle Reflection Sheets - completed by each participant

COLLEGIAL CIRCLE DESCRIPTION

What was the anticipated goal(s) of this Collegial Circle?

TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW TO TEACH WORD CHOICE, TONE AND SENSORY IMAGERY IN CREATIVE WRITING TO OUR STUDENTS. CREATIVE WRITING IS A MAJOR PART OF THE SHS WRITING CURRICULUM, AND WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THE MORE STUDENTS WRITE CREATIVELY CORRELATES DIRECTLY WITH THEIR SUCCESS AS READERS AND WRITERS IN OTHER GENRES.

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

English, 9-12

FINAL REFLECTIONS

Was the goal of your Collegial Circle met? Please explain.

Met and exceeded. The greatest outcome of our writers' circles is that we get a chance to "practice what we preach," and to more closely analyze how students understand what we want them to accomplish in their writing.

How did the members of this Collegial Circle assess whether the outcome was met? What evidence was utilized to assess your progress?

Through discussion, analysis and workshopping of one another's written and student's written works.

How did your work impact teaching and learning? [include student work samples, lesson plans, peer reviews, etc.]

We always come up with new (and improved!) ways to assign creative writing. Please see our attached lesson plans and student work (there is also one teacher reflection).

Did your work align with the Level of Evaluation you identified in your proposal? Please explain. [Refer to the document, *5 Levels of Professional Development Evaluation*, on the TC webpage.

Levels 4 & 5. We learned, developed, and then attempted to implement new writing skills which we will then impart to our students throughout the year. Our students' writing reveals this.

Please include any additional comments you would like to share with the Collegial Circle Committee. This may include unanticipated outcomes, next steps, new learning, etc.

We found ourselves discussing "off-shoots" of what we'd initially proposed to discuss. Thus, our work during our writers' circles served purposes beyond discussing our pedagogical practices; we also learned about our creative approaches to our own creative writing and lesson writing! We sincerely hope to continue this work well into the future. It is so gratifying, and some of the best professional development we do, as these meetings are hands-on ways to explore and develop our talents.