

Engaging English

Winter 2011

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Middle School

Middle Bridge is now a 2nd semester homework program. Please look for information from the counseling department at the end of January.

High School

It's the time of year for essay contest! Make sure to check professional sites for award programs that could help your students.

Make sure students are writing, not plagiarizing!

In the last newsletter, I gave you an online editing tool for students. The goal was to get students writing and editing more of their own work. Hopefully, your students are writing more often using the tool; and, you are seeing improvements in their writing.

As we incorporate more writing into the curriculum, we often worry if students are actually doing the writing themselves. This is especially true with re-

search papers, which are just around the corner. Hopefully you have students writing research papers in steps so they can avoid plagiarism. But if you are suspect of a paper, here are tools to check your students' writing.



Check student research papers for plagiarism!

You can go two routes with checking a paper for plagiarism. You can paste some of the paper directly into a search engine or you can go to a site that checks papers. Here are some online sites that check for plagiarism in essays. They all have a free version.

www.plagiarismchecker.com/

www.plagscan.com/seesources/analyse.php

plagiarism-detect.com/

Sites to Investigate this Nine-Weeks

- ◆ Need to build your students' general vocabulary skills, try: <http://www.intensivevocab.com/> or <http://www.bigqkids.com/vocabulary.html>
- ◆ Need new character mapping ideas, create a scrapbook here: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/scrapbook/>
- ◆ Do you need ESL items or games to help students struggling with language, try these: <http://www.eslgamesworld.com/>
- ◆ Want to do a game review and need a template: <http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/ppt-games/>

Engaging English

“Teachers must become facilitators in their classrooms because when students ask questions and find the answers for themselves, they get involved in their own learning.”

Make Common Items Interactive

Teachers. We all give notes and vocabulary. We all assign questions and activities. We sometimes put in a film clip or review games. Why not put all those items into one form as we move to make our classrooms more interactive and student centered!

Think about planning lessons like units in one document or “student study guide.” Using Active Inspire, Word, Adobe or whatever your program of choice, create one active document with all your unit needs.

⇒ Start the page with a hyperlink to a video to introduce the unit.

⇒ Next, put in a text box for a journal entry on the topic/theme.

⇒ Then hyperlink the PowerPoint notes you always give for this unit. Type in cloze notes for students to complete while/after watching the PowerPoint.

⇒ Next, add in links or the actual text of the passage. Create questions within the text (with electronic sticky notes or review comments) that students must answer while they read.

⇒ Then, put other activities into your docu-



Interactive Documents meet all student needs.

ment for student to complete (maps, diagrams, sentence activities, vocabulary activities, etc.).

⇒ Finally, link to review activities/games/websites for extra reinforcement.

You have now create a one-stop education shop for students and parents—who could complain!

Important English Dates

November 15-16	LTF Modules 1 & 2 (Glen Allen H.S.)—8:30-4:00 (Lunch on your own) —Room 411	
December 6-7	LTF Modules 3 & 4 (Glen Allen H.S.)—8:30-4:00 (Lunch on your own) —Room 411	
January 4-5	Achieve Data Workshops--Pick your ½ day session--G.A.H.S.—Room 411—8:30-11:30 or 1:00-4:00	
Jan 31-Feb 1	LTF Modules 5 & 6 (Glen Allen H.S.)—8:30-4:00 (Lunch on your own) —Room 411	
February 7-10	Achieve Modeling session in your classroom	
February 21-24	Achieve Modeling session in your classroom	
March SOLs	March 5, 2012	Paper/Pencil SOL Multiple Choice Writing –
	March 6, 2012	Paper/Pencil SOL Multiple Choice Writing Make Ups
	March 7, 2012	Paper Pencil Short Paper Direct Writing Prompt
	March 8, 2012	Paper/Pencil Short Paper Direct Writing Prompt Make Ups
	March 13-14, 2012	ONLINE Multiple Choice Writing Field Test
	March 20-21, 2012	ONLINE Short Paper Direct Writing Prompt (<i>represents a change in date</i>)
March 20-21	LTF Modules 7 & 8 (Glen Allen H.S.)—8:30-4:00 (Lunch on your own) —Room 411	
April-May	NWEA Testing Window	
Week of May 1 st	Achieve Data Review with principals and administrators	