



The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
Summer 2006
FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Enhanced Instruction in Grammar and Mechanics

List group members: Kathleen Cornacchio, Linda Kelly, Patricia Linaberry, Angela Otis

The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.

The Teacher Center of Broome County is requesting that two members of each study group funded as of July 2006 share the information gained through their study with other consortium members by presenting a workshop during the 2006 - 2007 school year. Please indicate on your final report who we should contact to make arrangements for your presentation.

Name	School/District
Kathleen Cornacchio	Homer Brink/ME
Patricia Linaberry	Homer Brink/ME

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

The purpose of this study group was to find methods of instruction that will enhance student performance in grammar and mechanics, especially within the Writer's Workshop format.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

Each group member read the book before meeting. We separated the book into four equal sections and we were each responsible for providing notes regarding the approach and instruction described in that section. Each member recorded questions, thoughts or concerns about topics in the book to discuss when we met.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

Each group member shared her notes. All questions, thoughts and concerns about the validity of the strategies proposed by Anderson were discussed. We then looked at how a technique or approach might be implemented in the classroom by a general education teacher, reading teacher or IST support person.

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

- How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?

We felt this was a valuable approach to grammar and mechanics instruction. Yes, we believe our teaching practices will change. By using Anderson's description of the Writer's Notebook set-up, by teaching students to become 'sentence stalkers' and by modeling good grammar and mechanics through the use of 'mentor text,' we feel the approach will be more positive for students, fostering a risk-free writing situation.

- What evidence do you **expect** to see of student achievement improving as a result of your participating in this study group?

We expect to see an increase in correct punctuation use, appropriate grammar and improved sentence structure, in both everyday written work, as well as in writing process pieces.

- What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?

While we feel we did find a fresh approach to teaching grammar and mechanics, we will have to wait until later in the school year to evaluate student progress before we can determine the actual effects on student performance.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

The study group process was valuable for us. We found it a good way to get

feedback from educators with different types of classroom experiences. It also gave us a forum to share our thoughts and get clarification before trying to implement this approach.

How can we make this study group program better?

We felt this was successful for us but an added component might be to offer a follow-up session after having time to apply the techniques. This would allow additional feedback, brainstorming and refining of the teaching model.

Thank you for providing us this opportunity.