

12:05:50 From Kristi Brockschmidt : Yes! I would like some guidelines on what a 'written' looks like for the different ages.

12:07:52 From Amber Reed : How often? Every book? Once a semester?

12:09:40 From Missy to All panelists : It's not necessary to do this with every book. Pick and choose! ;)

12:10:34 From Kristi Brockschmidt : In Teaching the classics (and Reading Roadmaps) you recommend doing the written work at the end of the book cycle.

12:11:51 From Stacey Z : - Thesis Statements: I'm frustrated with these, lol. I think I'm explaining them in a very obvious and straightforward way, lol, but apparently not.

12:12:41 From Stacey Z : Can you talk more about OTHER writing besides the formal essay?

12:12:57 From Lisa Looney : So do we wait to start another book until we've revised?

12:13:11 From Lander Hultin : One of my question is how to keep essay prompts from being "stale"? My English department is working on writing prompts that engage the student "morally" or "personally" in the essay while still keeping it anchored in the text. For example, my To Kill a Mockingbird prompt for 8th grade is pretty simple: What does To Kill a Mockingbird tell you about courage? But I'm considering something different for next year such as: "Remember Cecil Jacobs's ugly comments about Atticus Finch early in the book. What would Scout say to Cecil by the end of the book given what she's learned?"

12:13:17 From Kristi Brockschmidt : I'm also thinking of how to include some smaller assignments (like a paragraph with one citation) without making it overkill all the time.

12:15:06 From Lisa Looney : Stacy, I fist bump you in solidarity ;)

12:18:20 From Stacey Z : haha, Lisa -- thank you! ;)

12:19:20 From Lander Hultin : What kind of question would you pose for such an assignment?

12:19:42 From Lander Hultin : Would you just say "What does the author seem to be saying in the quote below?" and then let them write?

12:19:43 From Amber Reed : Does the Center for Lit writing course include those shorter assignments, too, or just the three long essays you mentioned?

12:22:13 From Lander Hultin : Ha, yes!

12:22:19 From Lander Hultin : But more seriously because

12:22:29 From Stacey Z : THIS is what I want to have discussions about over on the Pelican forums! I need the support! ;)

12:22:30 From Lander Hultin : the kids may just feel like it is assignment to complete

12:23:00 From Lander Hultin : It just feels like it is academic and not "live" if that makes sense.

12:23:02 From Kristi Brockschmidt : same old same old so they don't think thoughtfully but robotically?

12:23:05 From Lander Hultin : yes, the heart level

12:23:54 From Lander Hultin : Right, how do you get them to engage on a reflective level

12:24:05 From Kristi Brockschmidt : Maybe some of this is in having a variety of literature?

12:24:36 From Lander Hultin : Ya, that makes sense.

12:24:53 From Lander Hultin : I'm often just preparing 8th graders to thematically understand

12:26:33 From Lander Hultin : Interesting.

12:31:00 From Lander Hultin : Thanks!

12:31:39 From Stacey Z : I have to say I'm feeling more overwhelmed at hearing this description of coming up with reflective questions to foster deep thinking.....

12:32:51 From Stacey Z : But that's my students! High school. Ugh. They do observe, but the writing of essays has really been a struggle.

12:33:03 From Amber Reed : What do we do with junior high/high school kids who haven't had that kind of start in elementary levels?

12:33:13 From Kristi Brockschmidt : I'm also starting with a 7th grader from scratch, that has not had this type of instruction. He is picking up the story chart really well...we've been reading picture books. :)

12:34:05 From Kristi Brockschmidt : Horton Hears a Who was especially fruitful for an older kid.

12:34:17 From Lisa Looney : Most of my students come to me in 8th or 9th grade without that foundation so is it a good practice to start with one of the elements of literature and discuss how it may support or promote the theme? They struggle to go past retelling the story or stating facts and get to the "so what?"

12:37:20 From Kristi Brockschmidt : I have to admit I'm enjoying your method so much...maybe even more than my kid. :) I have faith that he will see the 'light'!

12:40:36 From Lander Hultin : So, do the questions become interpretive when you are asking "How do you know?" and are examining the text? Or are you interpreting when you are just asking these questions?

12:41:23 From Lander Hultin : Ya, for example, if you ask a student to describe Jem Finch in three adjectives is that interpretive? Or do you have to ask them to prove it with the text?

12:42:49 From Lisa Looney : That's the hump my students can't seem to get over

12:43:05 From Amber Reed : I have to head out early, but thank you! I look forward to listening to the rest on recording.

12:45:24 From Kristi Brockschmidt : We've done a bunch of easy ones, then I'm going to do a longer book he knows inside an out: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory before I go onto something he hasn't read like Huckleberry Finn.

12:46:15 From Lisa Looney : How about grading?

12:46:24 From Lisa Looney : I hate it

12:46:30 From Lander Hultin : I was just going to say the same thing

12:46:37 From Lisa Looney : homeschool co op, yes

12:47:34 From Lisa Looney : Right! Subjective. I'd like to give them an A in writing if they are better at the end of the year than the beginning.

12:48:50 From Stacey Z : So for writing things other than those long essays, maybe I need to explore making the questions in the TTC guide into some short writing responses as they go along reading....

12:49:16 From Lander Hultin : Ya, I think it depends because sometimes I am assessing an "idea" and sometimes a "skill".

12:49:21 From Adam Andrews : Yes, Stacey - absolutely!

12:49:36 From Stacey Z : Will the chat comments be on the replay? If not, there are a few comments I need to go back and make note of.

12:49:47 From Lander Hultin : Essays are tricky I think because I want to give them feedback on how to improve their writing

12:49:55 From Lander Hultin : but also to see if they

12:49:58 From Lisa Looney : I use the literary essay rubric from Analytical Grammar for structure

12:50:00 From Lander Hultin : they've "got" the theme

12:50:00 From Kristi Brockschmidt : That is wonderful. I love this idea. I've been really trying to break up the writing process into small chunks.

12:50:39 From Lisa Looney : So when they revise do you guys give a second grade or replace the first?

12:52:09 From Lisa Looney : Indeed

12:52:59 From Stacey Z : You guys seem to have a working relationship / connection with IEW. Does IEW help with some of this writing stuff? Like the high school level continuation course, for example.

12:53:11 From Lander Hultin : Ha, thanks!

12:53:22 From Lander Hultin : of course!

12:54:14 From Lander Hultin : Ya, I guess but that seems like they could go off the rails a bit?

12:54:22 From Shirley Gimbert : IEW is how I first learned of CFL 10 years ago. :) I use a variety of IEW curriculum w/ my HS students. A fav of mine is Windows to the World. And they have included with that a six week intro for TTC

12:54:25 From Lander Hultin : I guess I want them to express the main idea of empathy in their essay.

12:54:32 From Lander Hultin : Ok

12:55:00 From Lander Hultin : Right

12:55:13 From Lander Hultin : So I've even given them several quotes to start their essay

12:55:44 From Lisa Looney : For my 8th and 9th graders I just tell them the theme to look for, instead of asking them to find it. Then wean them off that help.

12:55:45 From Lander Hultin : yes

12:56:25 From Lander Hultin : Ya that's been my prompt and it does work well

12:57:06 From Stacey Z : I think we need to continue this conversation! lol
12:57:06 From Shirley Gimbert : I've contacted MIssy a time or two for essay prompt
help. :)
12:57:24 From Lisa Looney : Let's help each other in the forum!
12:57:46 From Kristi Brockschmidt : Would love to see you all in the forum! :)
12:58:01 From Stacey Z : Yes, I would LOVE to chat more about it on the forum.
12:58:08 From Kristi Brockschmidt : Well I meant everyone. :)
12:58:36 From Heather Barnes to All panelists : Thank you, I took a ton of notes!
12:58:47 From Lisa Looney : Thank you guys!
12:58:50 From Kristi Brockschmidt : Thanks everyone!