

The Sociocultural Theory in the Reading & Writing Workshop Model

Promotes Agency & Autonomy

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All In: When Theory Meets Practice in School Reform
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Writing Reflection

“Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other” (Freire, 1970 p.53).

Context

- 7th grade Writer's Workshop classroom
- Preparation for poetry presentation at a Boulder Coffee Co. (authentic, community audience)
- Explicit instruction through teacher modeling to eventual gradual release to promote complete peer-peer coconstruction of knowledge and peer review of poetry features learned throughout the unit of study.
- Scholar Facilitation of Publication Event

Theory of Practice

Sociocultural Theory-mediated tools for learning and scaffolds impact authentic learning opportunities and knowledge construction

Self-Determination Theory- Doing something because it is inherently interesting or enjoyable promotes student **agency and autonomy!**



Evolution of the Initiative

- To transform a comprehensive, public, open enrollment urban high school in danger of closing into a model of urban education.

Role of the University

Recommendation: Nancie Atwell's Reading and Writing Workshop model

- Explore authentic texts
- Produce meaningful pieces that matter to them

U of R's Mission: Highlights social justice and equity in education-

East's Mission: Be tenacious, Think purposefully and advocate for self & others

Literacy Mission: Develop students with strong collaboration skills, literate identities and agency.

What I've Noticed

Workshop class 2015-18

- 20+ students not “buying in”
- First year teacher (2015) challenges in addition to comprehensive reform: classroom management plan, discipline structures, understanding around literacy from scholars and school community.

Flexibility

- Restorative Circles with social worker weekly to reflect on challenges and to celebrate success
- Worked with existing volunteer program
- Year-long continuous PL training to get Google Chromebooks-changed reading and writing culture in the classroom
- Deeper understanding of purposeful and authentic assessment in

Workshop

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What I've Noticed

Discourse

- Getting kids to purposefully speak with each other is a huge motivating factor!
 - Provide sentence stems for collaborative speech
 - Questions & prompts that demand high order thinking
 - *Tell us more*
 - *So what you were saying...restate*

Feedback that Supports Future Learning

- Scholars creating criteria and wording for rubrics
- Modeling with exemplars and my own thinking
- Allowing scholars to reflect on their thinking





Gallery Walk

1. Take time now to walk around the room and spend 2-3 minutes at each station
2. Use the Notice and Wonder chart to record your thinking about each artifact of Workshop
3. Guiding question:
4. **What do you notice about how the artifacts align with East's Mission and the Sociocultural Learning Theory?**

Questions or Comments

Is there anything that you may use?

Is there anything that you have questions on?