

SAN ANTONIO WRITERS PROJECT  
JOURNAL LOG  
JULY 2, 2007

THE BEGINNING: 9:00-9:25am--Bob was busy punching holes in papers and delivering press as he also continued the work on his epic novel. Kim seemed to be pondering her next word in her journal. Katherine looked like she was composing a concerto on her laptop. Sheryll was busy putting together another article for "Liberated Woman" magazine. Aurelia looked like a "deer in headlights" when called upon to assist in a matter. Erlinda was ready to get the "show on the road" and bit on her lower lip. Irene walked delicately around the tight room and waved at a fellow member. "ONE MINUTE!" OUR LEADER WARNED THE CREW. Roxanne looked over her crew and acknowledged Lenny as he began sharing his morning journal writing.

"... what events will shape my kid's lives this weekend?" he finished and looked pleased with his contribution. The crew nodded and was also pleased. Joni commented on the universal theme of his ideas. She also began reading her thoughts for that morning. It concerned the molecular structure of pigs and hogs. In her quest to solve the baffling riddle, Joni wrote an "Ode to those Piggely Wiggelys." Bob added that he also found those road signs interesting, i.e., the Burma Shave roadside found poetry signs. "She eyed his beard and said, NO DICE, I'll cook the RICE."

9:45--The crew breaks and prepares for the day's Presenter of the Lesson.

10:00--GOOD MORNING! GOOD MORNING! GOOD MORNING! WE HAVE LOTS OF WORK TO DO THIS MORNING! Irene begins the presentation on "Using Our Senses to Write."

The morning presentation began with Irene passing everyone white paper sacks. Each sack contained various food items. The crew was to write a piece using their senses as a guide. LOOK--FEEL--TOUCH.

Irene showed the crew visual slides on her students and classroom. Suddenly, the action on the wide screen turned live as her students made a presentation on the Haiku. The students were brilliant and Irene's point of breaking down the "AFFECTIVE FILTER" was made crystal clear (Krashen). Students used their "senses" to jump-start their writings. "Students need visuals," Irene stressed, "we write using our senses." Irene also made the point that students don't know how to use details to get their message across. "It's nice," the students will say. "Well, how is it nice?" Irene will ask her students. "They need to know how to express in detail what they are trying to say."

The crew continued on the IDEA of the AFFECTIVE FILTER. "STUDENTS GROW AND FLORISH WHEN THEY FEEL MOST COMFORTABLE." A discussion grew from the idea that, "THERE ARE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKERS AND ENGLISH SPEAKERS AND HOW THERE ARE BIASES ON BOTH ENDS. NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKERS GET CRITICIZED FOR NOT

MEASURING UP TO PROPER SPANISH THE SAME WAY ENGLISH SPEAKERS GET DEVALUED FOR NOT USING PROPER ACADEMIC ENGLISH."

IDEAS THAT STEMMED FROM IRENE'S PRESENTATION:

- DESCRIBING THE FOODS WE EAT
- DESCRIBING A BEAUTIFUL DAY
- USING OTHER NATURAL ITEMS IN PLACE OF FOOD (TWIGS, HERBALS, ETC.)
- VARIOUS VOCABULARY LESSONS
- SOCIAL PSYCHO LINGUISTICS (A MAJOR FACTOR IN STUDENT LEARNING)
- WWW.READTHINKWRITE.ORG WEBSITE

As Irene terminated her presentation, Kim bestowed Irene with the customary token of appreciation--A book on writing by Anne Lamott, a small Writers SketchBook, and a Chinese Happiness BookMark. Irene accepted the gifts graciously, thanked Kim, and tried to hold back tears of extreme pleasure.

12:25pm--THE MEMBERS BROKE FOR LUNCH

#### THE MIDDLE:

12:55pm--Nora presented visual slides of the members for the SAWP of 2007. The visuals showed the members in various stages during the course of the project, everyone busy in their pods, writing, presenting, collaborating. Matters concerning the next issue of the SAWP ANTHOLOGY were discussed. Joni brought her son's graphic designs and the group agreed on an image for the cover. It was a tree with spheroids on its branches. It was a haunting image that created a sense of mystery and illusion--PERFECT! A quote by Jeffrey Golub was picked to represent the overall conscience of the SAWP 2007 ANTHOLOGY.

2:00pm--Various groups broke off to collaborate on the assembly of the SAWP 2007 ANTHOLOGY.

- Erlinda and Kalpana: Members Quotes
- Lenny and Nancy: Formatting the texts
- Joni and Jennifer: Cover Page
- Katherine and Sheryll: the Preface
- Kim: Table of Contents
- Bob: Baby Pictures (hey, he's a proud Grand-Pa)
- I collaborated with Kim II (the crew's invaluable "right arm") on how the Universe is directed by extreme cosmic dynamics and how these forces all come together at a focal point to alter the molecules in a human being's structure (oh, wait, that was just me daydreaming on what I was going to eat for supper).
- Irene: Catching some ZZZZs somewhere.

#### THE ENDING:

2:45pm--SHARING ON A PROFESSIONAL BOOK: IN THE MIDDLE, BY NANCIE ATWELL

NANCY: "I found it teacher friendly."

BOB: "A wealth of lessons and information."

RUBEN: "Complete freedom for the teacher and students."

Joni contributed by saying that the book allowed for the students to learn by their own volition. Roxanne extolled the writing capabilities of Atwell and her track record for winning awards at such a young age.

3:25pm--The SAWP 2007 prepared to close shop and put another day in the books. Roxanne urged everyone to consider our activities for the last day of the project. "What lesson presentations do we present? What readings do we read?" Also, members should research opportunities provided by SAWP. Don't forget our last VIDEO INTERVIEW. "WE'RE DONE!" EXCLAIMED OUR LEADER. The crew sighed in grateful relief.