

2022 NCTE Conference

Major Takeaways From the Most Impactful Sessions

Decolonizing the English Classroom: Applying the Principles of Decolonization in Your Own Work

In this collaborative workshop, we reviewed the principles for decreasing the impact of colonization on students and countering racism and inequity inherent in English education. We applied the principles discussed and developed lessons approaches in our own work.

This workshop provided a tremendous opportunity for me to reflect on best practices I was currently carrying out in my class, as well as areas that I can further develop and enhance. I am attempting to connect even more with students as individuals in my classes, and allowing students to discuss their identities with each other more. I am also planning to create more opportunities for students to explore/discuss topics of systems, power, and representation.

Antiracist Teaching and Translanguaging: Light from the Field

The workshop discussed linguistically informed pedagogies that center students and what they have to teach us. Also discussed was how students' expertise with translanguaging and multilingualism can provide a platform for multilingual awareness and explicit antiracist teaching that is necessary to confront the still-pervasive Standard Language Ideology.

This workshop brought forward a greater understanding of the need for teachers and students to gain a better understanding of the role language plays in our education system. I plan to continue to incorporate opportunities for students to learn about and embrace the linguistic diversity that exists in Hawai'i.

Pursuing More Equitable Assessment Practices: Challenges and Opportunities in Advocating for Students, Families, and Communities

The roundtable session focused on how literacy assessment practices can elevate the voices of students and their families. The presenters discussed the challenges and opportunities of enacting assessment practices in K-16 schools, homes, and communities.

This workshop helped me to reconsider the importance of incorporating students into the assessment process from the beginning. I will continue to enhance ways for students to engage with how their writing will be assessed earlier in the writing process, and to allow students to inform this process even more as well.

Daily Joy: Practices that Light Up Our Thinking, Writing, and Teaching

Teaching practices were shared that build curiosity and problem solving in a dynamically changing world. Strategies were shared regarding how digital composition can propel students from stagnation into vibrant and relevant learning. Also shared were strategies to help build habits of empowerment and independence by design - personalizing instruction to foster collaboration and deep engagement.

This workshop reminded me to bring into my curriculum current and relevant elements to stimulate greater interest into writing activities and assignments in the class. I have been making a more active effort to ensure that discussion topics and examples are more current and relevant for students.

Increasing Students' Transference of Teachers' Commentary to Subsequent Drafts Using an Effective Digital Tool

The session focused on students' transference (or lack thereof) of teachers' commentary on subsequent drafts using an effective digital tool. The presenter shared evidence-based classroom research to shed light on the complex communication between teachers' intentions and students' perceptions of commentary that relate to transference.

This workshop helped me to consider how my digital comments can be more effective through greater class discussion about comments and subsequent actions for revision. Also, the workshop reminded me to focus my commentary more on the most global needs of the paper rather than an exhaustive review of all the needs of the paper.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Seema Yasmin

The Q&A presentation focused on her Book "What the Fact?" discussing the importance of teaching News Literacy and the need for students to better understand the nature of misinformation, disinformation, etc. Another focus was on the importance of reading laterally and providing students with relevant opportunities in the classroom to explore credibility.

This presentation really brought forward the importance of News Literacy as an element in our classrooms, and discussed strategies for helping students navigate the abundance of information they encounter everyday. I will use elements of Dr. Yasmin's book to help students build their News Literacy in my classes, and I will develop some specific practice activities covering strategies such as fact checking social media posts, reverse image searches, reading laterally, misinformation vs disinformation, etc.

Igniting the Light Within: Helping Students Find Their Voice Through Collaboration

Student writing has been reduced to a series of teacher-set expectations, predetermined guidelines and rubrics, and specific assignments to complete which rarely encourages ownership throughout the writing process. The session provided practical tools to move students from checking boxes in class for a grade to ownership in the creating and critiquing of their writing.

This workshop helped me to reconsider how students can explore alternative approaches to the learning objectives within the same assignment. I am putting more emphasis on the prewriting stage of the writing process in my courses, allowing students to find not only topics for their papers, but also potentially alternative approaches to assignment outcomes.

Clarifying Misinformation: Tools to Empower Students

Reading laterally and fact-checking are critical skills all students need. This session offered ideas to help students become discerning users of digital content.

This workshop was a hands-on workshop where we were able to participate as students exploring the credibility of digital content. It provided me with a greater appreciation of the complexity of what we may be asking our students to do in class. I have incorporated more explicitly into my class this discussion - that determining credibility of information can at times be difficult, even when best practices are carried out.

Humanizing the College Writing Classroom Experience with Mindful Reading

This poster presentation shared a study exploring the research question, “In what ways does knowledge transfer from shorter reading tasks to longer reading tasks when reading and analyzing nonfiction books in a writing classroom? Some of the points shared in the study were that reflective reading is a valuable skill, reading and writing are active, creative skills, and college level reading is a skill students are entering at the start of college.

This presentation reminded me of the importance of teaching more explicitly some strategies for students to manage their reading assignments in class. I am continuing to try to build more engaging, reading skill activities into my classes to assist students with becoming mindful readers.

Antiracist ELA Educators' Actions

This poster presentation provided a list of antiracist best practices put forward by the NCTE Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English.

This year, the areas that I hope to focus on the most from the list of practices are:

- *Seeking and leading training in language diversity*
- *Working against negative attitudes toward multiple Englishes*
- *Including culturally relevant and sustaining materials in learning spaces*
- *Advocating for every student to receive equitable educational opportunities*