

Lost in Transition: Writing and Literature in the 21st Century

Feedback Form

November 7-8, 2014

Casper, Wyoming

Session Feedback transcribed November 10, 2014

n = 27 responses

All responses from evaluation forms were transcribed exactly as written.

Not all respondents answered all questions.

1. Please rate the overall quality of the Lost in Transition: Writing and Literature in the 21st Century.

7, 7, 8, 8, 8.5, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10

mean = 9

median = 10

mode = 10

Comments:

- Saturday was very helpful. I didn't like meeting during the weekend.
- Awesome opportunity.
- Always excellent! We all need to be here in person to talk and let the conversation flow.
- I appreciate this teamwork and structures.
- Thank you for this opportunity.
- To get in touch with other minds and hearts with shared goals was terrific.
- We each work with different age groups, but there is no hierarchy here. I have benefitted from this diverse group of teachers, and I'll be back.
- Best summit yet! Glad we combined reading & writing! Really enjoyed dialog with higher level staff.
- Very inspiring.
- It would have been a 10 had it not been for the dinner presentation on Friday night. ☺
- The guest speaker on Friday evening brought it down from a 10 to a 9. For me, there was a bit of a disconnect b/w the big ideas of the conference and his speech.
- I love this opportunity. Thank you!
- Many good conversations; different perspectives; I wish, though, that a session would focus on collectively practicing some of these neat techniques/examples so we could go back and better duplicate a specific process.
- Kept discussion within time limits. Great comments, flow of ideas, and collaboration from a variety of backgrounds.
- Such an awesome opportunity to talk with peers to talk about the central issues that we struggle with through the years. . .
- I think that this conference allowed multiple opportunities for different minds to meet. I just would have liked to have experience more opportunities for participating in different conversations.
- I appreciate the ability to converse K-16 about the real struggles or issues in our content.
- I love this meeting. I need opportunities to see/learn what happens at other levels and to get to know teachers from across the state. It is striking how engaged all of the participants are in every discussion and activity. * Thank you for the great breakfast!
- I truly enjoyed the collaboration and discussions. This has been a great experience and I plan to attend the next session.
- Terrific organization for the two days.

2. Please rate the panel discussion, *Making it matter: How close reading and writing provide opportunities for deeper learning.*

5, 6, 7, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8.5, 9, 9, 9, 9, 9, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10
mean = 9 median = 9 mode = 10

Comments:

- I think we get more out of talking ourselves.
- Provoking on issues of CR. Might be nice just to CR.
- I came in late – I am so sorry.
- The combined perspective was so informative.
- Great intro to the topic. Limiting the time allowed for responses was a great idea.
- Everyone on the panel represented the best of their fields. We have so many great people in this state!
- Great schema activator.
- I enjoyed having all levels represented.
- I loved all of these speakers! I wish we gave them a bit more time. ☺
- I was very interested in the perspective of the team teaching pair. Their perspective was most useful to myself.
- I loved the panel members. I wanted more time with them. Perhaps after the large group we could have 20-30 minutes to walk up to them with individual questions or get some small group time in 10 minute intervals with each of them.
- Good, but I was nervous since I've never been on one . . . or even seen one in real life.
- Enjoyed their individual humor, experiences, and thought provoking use of words. The example of analyzing tangible garbage in their writing development for the students, two kind of students, those who write or don't care and the work it takes to access content in them. Find something meaningful they are interested in. Reading and writing as a back and forth relationship – a text makes moves, deploy critical thinking skills.
- Some of the best conversations of the weekend happened in panel discussions, I just wish that I could have participated in more of them.
- I would have liked to have seen more focus on the translation of ideas from physical close reading to actual close reading & analysis of sources in writing. I also would have liked more opportunity for audience Q&A.
- Great selection of speakers!
- This discussion gave me some solid ideas to bring back to my district.
- Great!
- Expanded across levels well. Because many extra tables/seats, perhaps could have made us move up from back & sides to fill tables? (Maybe not, depends on group)

3. What insights or reactions did you have from the afternoon small group discussions (1:45-3:00) on Friday?

- Good insight from different age levels.
- Really liked this. We talked a lot about close reading as a group & really got a lot out of it.
- Was in a group that just complained about the politics in school . . .
- The insight I gleaned is the idea that we all (cross-curric.) must share common language.
- Incredibly thoughtful . . . thank you for organizing groups – provided new perspectives.
- This is where the really good happens.
- Being in a small group forced me to articulate my ideas. That was great!
- ☺ A great way to approach misconceptions about the Core and misconceptions in general. The importance in believing in all students.
- I enjoyed the length of time for sessions.

5. If you attended dinner with speaker, Jeff Lockwood, please rate his talk and the after-dinner discussion.

1, 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 9, 9, 9, 9, 10, 10

mean = 6

median = 7

mode = 5 and 9

Comments:

- NA
- I was a little ambivalent about this – I sort of saw the tie in, but thought theory is tough to work with for middle school & even high school classrooms.
- Horrible, just horrible, both in content and style.
- Topic didn't seem relevant. Long. 1) Food was cool to cold. 2) Serving dessert during the talk was rude.
- It is best if a speaker attends the conference.
- Entertaining – NOT.
- Strong connection & closure for the day's work.
- I was getting tired toward the end, but Jeff was thoughtfully inspiring.
- Even though I didn't agree with everything Jeff said, I found the talk stimulating, and it sparked many good conversations.
- Interesting topic – taste.
- Lack of dialogue. Speaker to audience rather than back and forth between speaker and audience.
- I felt like this was out of touch with the rest of the conference.
- Mmm. Jeff's "talk" was a bit disconnected from our discussions during the day. Considering teachers came from every grade level, his talk was a graduate-level. He is a good reader, but it seemed impersonal that he stood and just read his speech w/o interacting with the audience. It might have helped if he had participated in the discussions earlier in the day?
- Lockwood was amazing. I was totally fascinated by him & encouraged by his words. I wish he had spoken at the beginning rather than the end. I had more questions I didn't ask because I needed to get home.
- Seemed disconnected since he wasn't at the panel.
- Some distractions while he was speaking took away from his message. I enjoyed his use of taste and related it to our dinner as well. Very good.
- I love Jeff, but his argument smacked too much of the attitudes that [indecipherable] the greatest achievements of late-Victorian social engineering for me to be comfortable with his conclusions . . .
- Great, relevant context. I would have liked him to talk to us rather than just read.
- Beautiful presentation and interesting questions.
- It was too long at the end of an intense afternoon. The talk itself was thought-provoking, but previous year's dinner activities were more interactive and I enjoyed that a lot more.
- Excellent points, but difficult to listen to him just read.
- Fascinating talk – I'd love to have a copy!

6. What insights or reactions did you have from the small group discussions about assignments Saturday morning (8:30-9:45)?

- This was my favorite small group. Very helpful.
- I get a lot of the small group discussions that goes right back to the classroom. LOVE people bringing assignments.
- Excellent.
- The range of needs. How to teach for requirement, but also to open space for students, too.
- Common language. Scaffolding.

- Looking at work from other classes is so informative.
- The ideas that came out of chatting around the table will be greatly useful to me.
- It was great to hear others' ideas!
- Process matters!
- How do we bolster engagement and get past amygdala with Eng 1010 students.
- Wonderful.
- I wish some of the groups were re-worked b/c of absent attendees. Our group was so small and our discussion wasn't as rich as some of the other discussions yesterday.
- This was my favorite time of the WHOLE conference. I loved hashing out/fleshing out our work & how it would work for us.
- This is one of my favorite parts. We stand to learn so much from the "work" we each do. I always walk away with great ideas.
- Do use of words and worlds connect us? Yes!
- Great! Awesome to see which skills are most important across levels.
- We really learned about the importance of sequencing & setting students up for success.
- Such different focuses at different levels. This was true in my group, but maybe not in others. There was some agreement on what an assignment that uses multiple sources looks like.
- It was awesome to see how teachers at all levels are building in scaffolding and trying to bridge between levels and across courses and programs. We all struggle with the right balance between supporting students and pushing them to jump to a new level of rigor.
- Importance of making assignments relevant.
- I can't wait to finish our book on Packaging Relevance!
- Communication & choices can get them started.
- What a great chance to share – it certainly is a boost and so inspiring.

7. What insights or reactions did you have from the small group discussions around specific topics Saturday morning (10:30-11:30)?

- Some good ideas to use in my classroom.
- The choice of topics was nice, kept things relevant at a personal level.
- This was the bet because we could make choices about what we wanted to discuss.
- The reach of possible collaborations.
- Cross-teacher collaboration.
- Looking at work from other classes is so informative.
- The ideas that came out of chatting around the table will be greatly useful to me.
- Ours was thought-provoking.
- Loved the choice – so made me engaged in my topic.
- Loved the summary by structure idea.
- Great.
- It was great – good questions asked & answered. Great ideas for assignments shared.
- This was okay. I would have liked more time to maybe jigsaw and discuss our assignments with a 2nd group of people. I value that activity so very much.
- Collaboration is a cross between teacher, in relationship, time, common vocabulary and connections to other teachers and students. How does the study of language arts create citizens of the world?
- My favorite breakout group! My favorite aspect was that we were able to talk about how our strategies/texts inform our approach . . .
- This discussion highlighted the importance of fostering the skills students need to take ownership of reading. Very relevant.

- We had great discussions about the topics, and I felt like we really articulated some great needs, ideas, and methods.
- It was hard for my group to really grapple with all the questions – but maybe they talked about what they needed to.
- Good ideas for teaching.
- I walked away with a broader perspective of how to create ownership of a text with students and what that looks like from 6th grade through college.
- Words/worlds – how the teacher reaches into students’ worlds, keeping at it until he/she touches their hearts.
- I am going home with tones of ideas! Thanks.

8. What do you see as the next steps for Teaching Writing in Wyoming and the Literature Summit colloquium in future years?

- Small groups doing close readings of various texts.
- Multimodal! Close reading groups.
- Group close reading – mentioned last year. It’s what we love.
- More on multi-modal. Sharing of common texts.
- Keep it up!
- Let’s do it again. I don’t think I’d change much.
- Multi-modal/digital texts need more attn. – how do we help our students? Suggest making the evaluation digital!
- Just keep having them.
- I love the idea about looking @ any text on screen – images, online texts, etc. This is a huge part of our students’ lives, and we need to start thinking about this all the time.
- More sharing of assignments! Perhaps we share assignments digitally first & we get to read through them & then everyone offers feedback (both praise & constructive criticism and/or suggestions). Then we gather to talk about the assignments that interest us or that we want more info on. Hooray! I love this conference!
- The larger group discussions I found less useful, but the smaller group sessions were invigorating.
- I like the idea of discussion the role of technology in our classrooms. Thank you! 😊
- Keep it going.
- How do we help our students closely read digital texts? How do we teach students for future careers that are not even considered careers at this time? The extra reading assignment was valuable and I would have liked to have time to hear and share gained insights from it.
- This is my first time attending – I loved all of it . . .
- I would like to see us continue to find ways for our students to negotiate the shift from one level of their education to the next.
- 1) Time to talk about our craft K-16 is a great opportunity. Multi-modal literacies might be a fun concept for next time, and it might help address the relevance piece we discussed. 2) The opportunity to close read together.
- No ideas yet aside from Peter’s idea of closely reading digital texts.
- I like the concept of exploring digital literacies.
- Update processes to complement new tech?
- More of the same!