

"[...]in truth, we have found few mentor texts that are actually timeless or connect with every group of students. Instead of demanding our students fit one text, we find texts to fit our students, and even when we loved a text the year before, we often find something different for a new year." From *Writing With Mentors* by Allison Marchetti and Rebekah O'Dell (Heinemann, 2015)

Never Going Back: Engaging Students in Authentic Writing Through Mentor Texts and Modeling

WSRA • Friday, February 9, 2018 • 9:45-11:15 AM (Session F-A12)
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<u>Learning Target:</u>	<u>Questions/Reflection:</u>
<p>I can reflect on the impact of using mentor texts for authentic writing so that I can implement best practices in writing instruction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can discuss the process of writing with students to build trust. ➤ I can explain the impact that student choice and an authentic audience has on student engagement. 	

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When	What
9:45-10:05	<p>Opening: Introductions, Learning Target, Quick Write Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a clear purpose of our work during today's session
10:05-11:10	<p>Never Going Back: Engaging Students in Authentic Writing Through Mentor Texts and Modeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate "Before" Writing Samples ● Ongoing Inquiry ● Ongoing Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning together for the unit goal ○ Selecting compelling materials ○ Create and learn with students ● Investigation Stations--"After" Writing Samples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Artist Statements ○ Commentary on War Op Eds ○ Humans of Appleton East ○ Infographics ○ Transcendentalist Blogs ● Questions
11:10-11:15	<p>Debrief: (How did you get smarter today?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revisit Learning Target ● Turn and Talk

Additional Notes and/or Questions:

Helpful resources that inspired and guided our ongoing inquiry:

- *That Workshop Book: New Systems and Structures for Classrooms That Read, Write and Think* by Samantha Bennett (Heinemann, 2007)
- *Learning That Lasts: Challenging, Engaging, and Empowering Students with Deeper Instruction* by Ron Berger, Libby Wooden, and Anne Vilen (Jossey-Bass, 2016)
- *The Journey is Everything* by Katherine Bomer (Heinemann, 2016)
- *Common Core, Unit by Unit: 5 Critical Moves for Implementing the Reading Standards Across the Curriculum* by Cheryl Becker Dobbertin (Heinemann, 2013)
- *Imagine It Better: Visions of What Schools Might Be* by Luke Reynolds (Heinemann, 2014)
- *No More Telling as Teaching: Less Lecture, More Engaged Learning* by Cris Tovani and Elizabeth Birr Moje (Heinemann, 2017)
- *So What Do They Really Know: Assessment that Informs Teaching and Learning* by Cris Tovani (Stenhouse, 2011)

Quotes that continue to linger in our thinking:

"Literacy is the gateway skill to success in the study of any content area, to success in any kind of postsecondary education, and to advanced training in trades and in the military. So the goal of the Common Core State Standards is right. But if we want the new standards to make a difference, we need to plan in ways that lead to change. Existing paradigms of planning, particularly paradigms that do not help students engage with and understand complex texts, will not be sufficient." – (p. xvii) **From *Common Core, Unit by Unit: 5 Critical Moves for Implementing the Reading Standards across the Curriculum* by Cheryl Becker Dobbertin (Heinemann, 2013)**

"Learning, as a service to the self, should help students rehearse for future applications and ways of being, for navigating and solving problems. and for getting work done." **From *The Activist Learner: Inquiry, Literacy, and Service to Make Learning Matter* by Jeffrey Wilhelm, Whitney Douglas, and Sara W. Fry (National Writing Project, 2014).**

"Teach your students real-world writing purposes, add a teacher who models his or her struggles with the writing process, throw in lots of real-world mentor texts for students to emulate, and give our kids the time necessary to enable them to stretch as writers." **From *Write Like This* by Kelly Gallagher (Stenhouse, 2011)**