

Promising Practice 1: *Engaging Students using Young Adult Literature Blogs and Interconnected Student Blogs*



Promising Practice Description:

- ◆ Utilizing interactive blogs to discuss current Young Adult Literature and solicit critical responses from students
- ◆ Thought-provoking “Respect for All” student blog addresses topics in citizenship and Digital Citizenship; and provides a medium for students to write persuasively, and classmates to respond critically.

Instructional/ Pedagogical Benefits:

- Students are asked to critically respond to their own independent reading books in a Young Adult Literature blog. This critical thinking can take place during class time or at home, through the use of broadband internet and the Home Learning Centers (HLCs), bridging the home-school connection, and extending learning beyond the school day.
- Teachers are able to provide immediate feedback; blogging also provides an opportunity for teachers to monitor student responses and track data.
- Blogs facilitate meaningful interactions among students, teachers, and administrators by allowing ELLs/ SWDs/ struggling learners to respond more freely than they may during class time.
- Blogs provide a medium for students to critically respond to prompts, as well as to recognize, interpret, and make connections in narratives.

Opportunities for Partner Integration:

- Student blog incorporates aspects of Common Sense Media’s Digital Citizenship curriculum
- AUSSIE ITC provided digital training in initial set up of Google sites
- School-based team maintains blogs, promoting sustainability
- MOUSE Squad and/or CUNY Intern could support student blogs, assisting in creation of student logins and offering technical support as needed.

Action Plans/ Next Steps: *Based on what you learned during the Learning Walk, please highlight actions/ next steps with ITCs, your CUNY intern, MOUSE Representative, or DOE CL PM*

Resources Utilized:

- ◆ Ms. McGill’s Young Adult Literature blog: <http://blablablah280.blogspot.com/>
- ◆ Student-created “Respect for All” blog: <http://rfa280.blogspot.com/>
- ◆ Common Sense Media’s Educators page: <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators>