

To: Mike Thomas

From: Sharon Greenauer

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Subject: TEPS abstract

I was very fortunate to attend The Literacy Institute: Strategies for Improving Reading and Writing: What Matters Most through a TEPS grant. It was an incredible experience to work closely with an extremely dedicated and talented panel who made themselves very available from the opening session through the closing. We began each day with The Writers Workshop led by teacher and author Linda Rief. She provided very powerful Quick Write strategies to help motivate even the most reluctant writers. Next, Creating Engaged Readers was the focus of work with Kylee Beers and Bob Probst (authors of Notice & Notes for fiction and non-fiction reading). Their work and research in classrooms was shared along with videos created as they worked as classroom coaches. The afternoons began with The Reader's Workshop by Penny Kittle, high school teacher and author. Her strong belief that "engagement is everything" for the adolescent reader was very evident in the strategies she uses. These presentations were followed each day by a choice of 2 "Sprint Sessions" held by the panel members for small groups. Topics ranged from conferencing with students, journals, student response, creating "real" conversations around reading and writing, vocabulary, sign posts, and more. There was opportunity to listen and talk to the author of many children's books for intermediate students, Chris Crutcher. He shared openly about the process of writing his books. It was an unforgettable experience and I am very grateful to the TEPS committee for the opportunity to attend!