

To: Faculty Professional Development Center, Kent State University

Re: Faculty Learning Community Activity meetings for Improving Technical Report Writing

Date of Meeting: 4/23/08

Time: 2:03 to 3:02 PM

Meeting location: Polsky 134, The University of Akron

LC members present: Sue Ramlo, Mike Johanyak, Kelly Webb, Jeff Schantz, Mary Verstraete, Dane Quinn, John Nicholas, Lori Kraft, Tom Lukach, Roland Arter

Please describe the topics covered at the meeting or a summary of the event:

We had two guests from the College of Engineering – Dane Quinn (Mechanical Engineering) and Mary Verstraete (Biomedical Engineering). We discussed the data measurement activities that have been developed so far. Mike discussed how the Honors students from Engineering have used the Mini Carrot Activity which they will be presenting via Power Point (voice over included) in class by the end of the semester.

Dane showed us an example from the Podcast Project where students created podcasts with visuals in small groups as part of a sophomore engineering course (at the University of Virginia). We discussed having our students do something similar. We also talked about the presentations / workshops by Cynthia Selfe at the NE Regional OLN showcase in January at Kent State (she did both audio only and audio with visuals).

We also discussed having the College of Engineering faculty develop additional activities for TRW, including for the Honors sections for engineering students. Approximately 400 honors students total in the College of Engineering, approximately 1/3 of the 300 incoming honors students per year. They reported that one of the issues for these students is the hike to Polsky to take the Honors TRW course. Note that Auburn has extremely limited classroom space and could not offer space to host TRW.

All engineering students have the option of taking TRW or English Comp II.

Sue discussed the SERC (Science Education Resource Center) module that we have hosted via Carleton College. We will be, hopefully, posting our activities there by the end of the OLN grant.

FOLLOW UP: We still need TRW activity authors to add sections to their activities no later than our next meeting.