

# USING EEEPCs IN A BLOG-BASED HIGH SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOM

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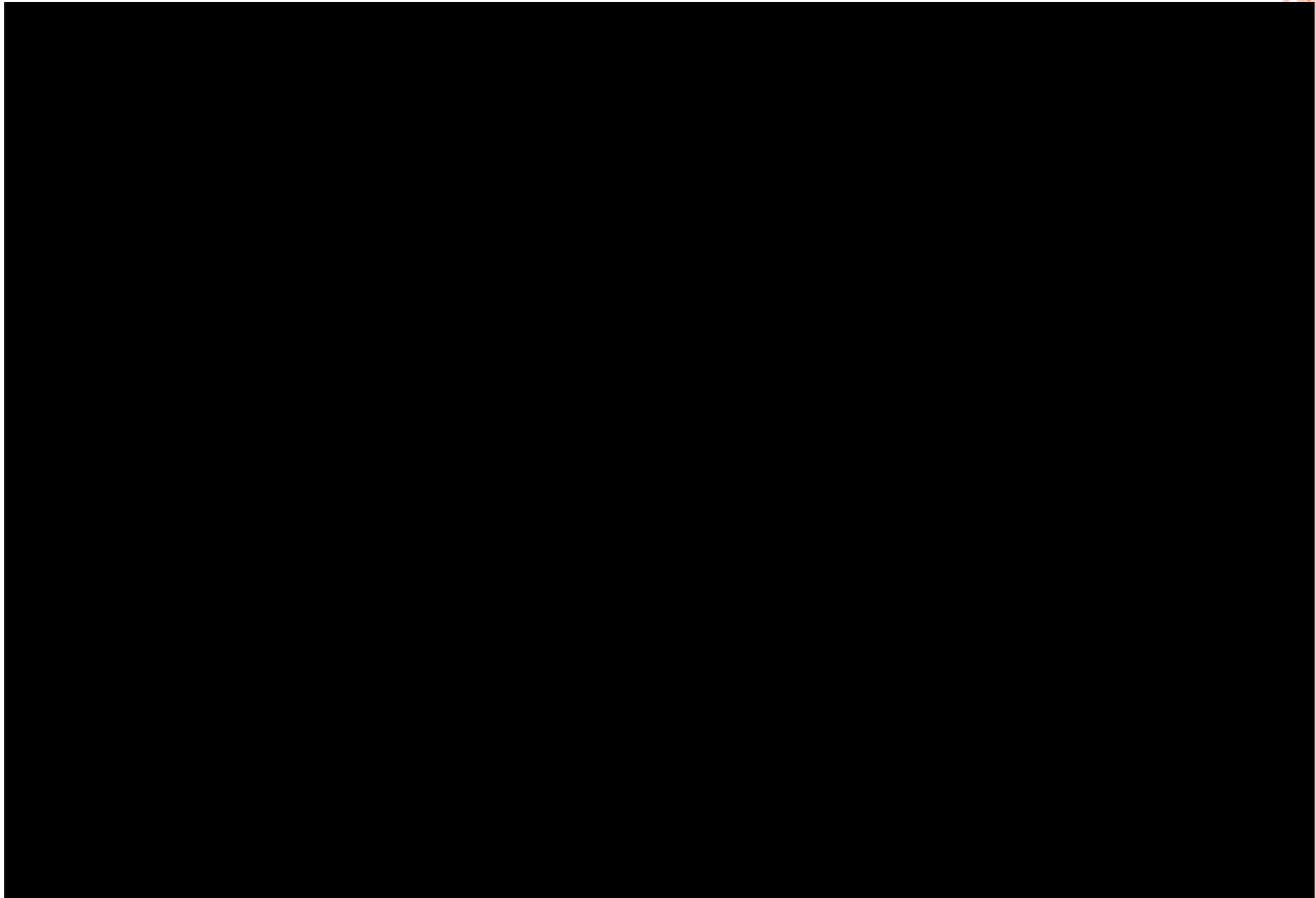
Create rigor for an engaged, excited community of readers and writers using blogging software and compact new laptop technology.



# INTRODUCTIONS

- **Leslie Fox** - *Literacy Teacher Leader*
  - English 9, Honors English 9, AP Lit. and Comp., ELA Support
  - 18 years teaching experience
- **Dawn Weber** - *Literacy Teacher Leader*
  - English 9 Co-op
  - 11 years teaching experience
- **Tom Fox** - *Building Technology Manager*
  - 14 years in science/math/business
  - last 3 years in technology





# TOUR OF THE BLOG

- Link to the blog
  - [Fox](#)
  - [Weber](#)



# IT'S A NOTEBOOK!

## ○ Student View

- No papers to loose
- Assignments and notes
- A place to park thinking
- Example: Emily
- Eliminates visual cues

## ○ Teacher View

- Nothing to carry!
- Organized
- Easy access to previous work and feedback
- Accountability

Ongoing access for both student and teacher.



# A PLACE TO SHARE WORK

## ○ Student View

- Authentic Audience
- Scaffolding support
- Models to clarify understanding/ expectation.
- Feedback
- Cool factor
- Examples:
  - [Elizabeth](#) / [Ashley](#)

## ○ Teacher View

- A variety of models
- Teachers share work as readers and writers
- Quality of work is improved
  - Depth/Length
- Examples
  - [Fox](#) / [Weber](#)

Creating a community of readers and writers



# REVISION AND REFLECTION

## ○ Student View

- Blogging about process
- Easy revision
- Using feedback for revision
  - Peer
  - Teacher

## ○ Teacher View

- Timely
- Previous feedback is accessible
- More, better, clearer feedback
- Teacher can track the decisions of the writer over time

Revision and reflection are ongoing for both student and teacher to see.





# SUPPORT AT HOME

## ○ Student View

- No notebook to forget
- Constant access
- Exemplars/teacher demos available
- Other students' work
- Class work is made available at home, instantly
- Anchor charts online

## ○ Teacher View

- No notebook to cart around
- Constant access
  - Assessing students
  - Preparing/planning instruction
- Easy communication

Reading and writing continues outside the classroom.



# DIFFERENTIATING INSTRUCTION

- Co-Op
  - Minimizes the disability (handwriting, spelling, length)
  - Increases opportunities for scaffolds
  - Increases willingness of students to take advantage of accommodations
    - Accommodations are less public



# DIFFERENTIATING INSTRUCTION

- English Language Learners
  - Minimizes the language barrier
  - Provides access to language support (online dictionary, thesaurus, translation)
  - Increases opportunities for scaffolds
  - Increases the opportunity to look at other students work
  - Allows for more time to process the work
  - Provides students with the computer skills to help them compete academically and in the work force



# DIFFERENTIATING INSTRUCTION

- Honors
  - Allows for individualized instruction
  - Raises rigor by holding students accountable for their own thinking rather than regurgitating information disseminated by the teacher
  - Increases accountability for revision
  - Allows for more individualized feedback
    - What does student A need to move beyond current understanding?



# THE NUTS AND BOLTS

- Teacher training
- Technical support
- Student training
- Security / Passwords
- New students
- Failure...Just go with the flow!



# THE TECHNOLOGY ISSUES



# NETBOOK COMMON ELEMENTS

- 7 to 10 inch LCD screen
- Reduced size keyboard
- 0.5 or 1 GB Memory
- 2GB to 16GB Flash-based “hard drive”
- SD card storage slot
- 2-6 hours of battery life
- Wireless network connection
- Internet browser
- Basic Office or Office-like Suite
- Linux or Windows XP
- Manufacturer’s price point is \$250-\$450



# THE CONTENDERS

Asus 2G

\$249 - \$299





# THE CONTENDERS

Asus 900

\$299



# THE CONTENDERS

HP Mini

\$399-\$450



# THE CONTENDERS

Dell Mini 9     \$249-\$299



# RESEARCH GUIDES

- <http://gigaom.com/2008/09/01/choosing-a-netbook-a-guide/>
- <http://news.cnet.com/what-is-a-netbook-computer/>
- [http://www.intellireview.com/category/catalog\\_electronics\\_computers\\_netbooks/?aid=1485&top=10&gclid=CJeL36PajpkCFShRagodLSvUbA](http://www.intellireview.com/category/catalog_electronics_computers_netbooks/?aid=1485&top=10&gclid=CJeL36PajpkCFShRagodLSvUbA)



# STRENGTHS

- Inexpensive
- Small
- Durable
- Better battery life
- Market is growing
- Tight competition
- Decent prices



# DRAWBACKS

- May tax wireless and Web capacity
- Small keyboard & odd key arrangements
- Office software 'clones' take some getting used to
- A few kids really don't like it



# CHALLENGES

- Finding \$10-12K
  - 32 netbooks
    - $(32 \times 300 = \$9600)$
  - Cart (\$900)
  - Unplanned expenses
  - Extras



# CHALLENGES

- Finding a suitable cart





# CHALLENGES

- Modding a suitable cart



# CHALLENGES

- Training students
  - Getting/returning laptops
  - Connecting
  - Basic troubleshooting
  - Blog navigation
  - Saving often
  - Coping with bugs



# WORDPRESS

- Get a free WP blog
  - <http://wordpress.com/>
- WP for education
  - <http://edublogs.org/>
- 10 ways to use a blog
  - <http://edublogs.org/10-ways-to-use-your-edublog-to-teach/>



# QUESTIONS???

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Just because  
you've *always*  
done it that  
way doesn't  
mean it *has*  
to be done  
that way.

