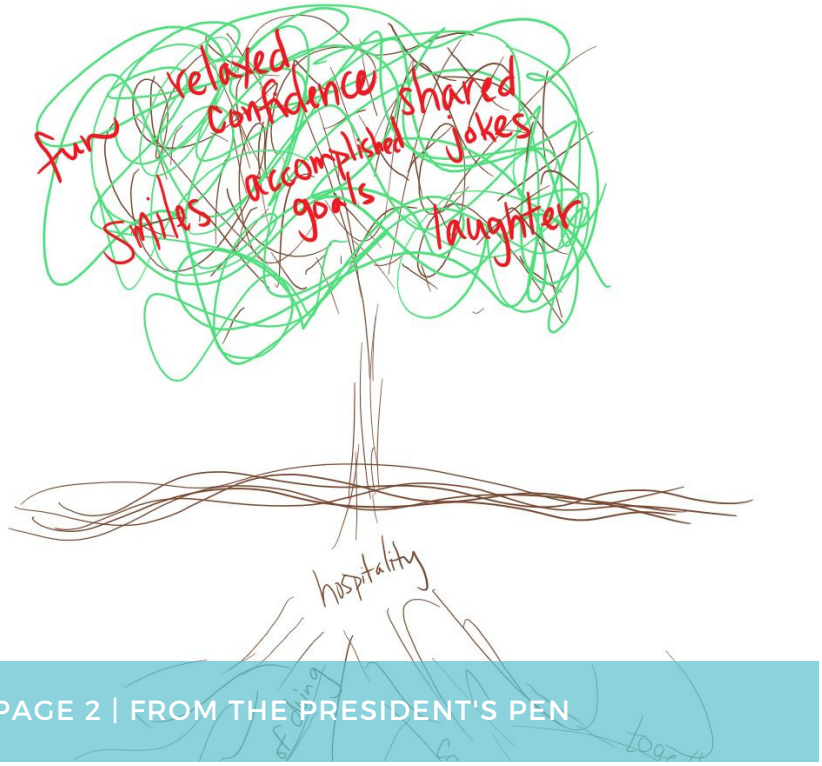
NDCTE CONNECTED

THE BEST FIT FOR ELA TEACHERS ACROSS NORTH DAKOTA

DAKOTA MEANS FRIEND



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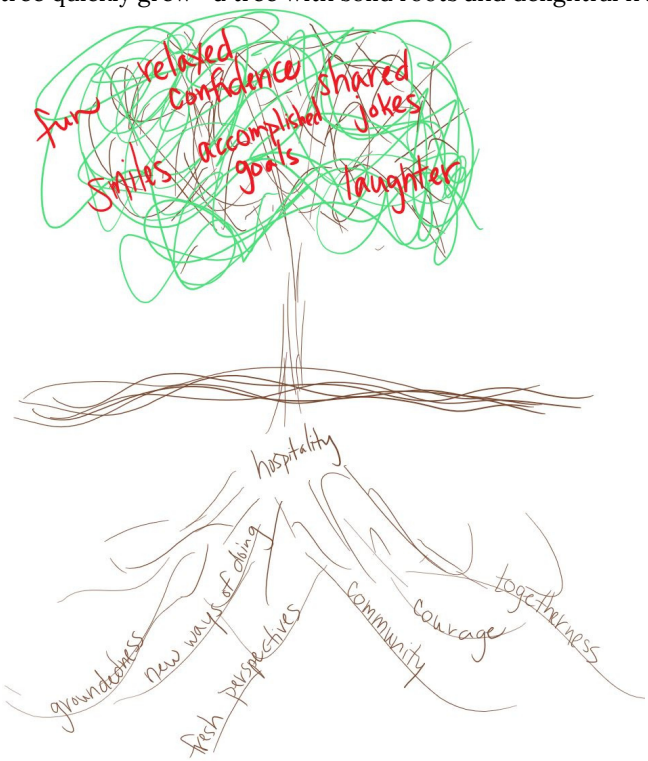
From the President's Pen

October 7, 2021

Hello fellow English teacher,

Kelsey Johnson, our now Past-President, has both presented and written before about the practice of choosing "one word" to guide a season or a year. As I sat down to write my first "From the President's Pen," one word kept dancing in my mind: hospitality. Thus, I picked my (digital) pen and planted the word "hospitality" on the page. A beautiful tree quickly grew—a tree with solid roots and delightful fruit.



I hope we can all remember a time when we were shown hospitality by our colleagues, our administration, our community, and even our students. Part of hospitality is welcoming new people, but another part of it is a sustained way of being, of being both a giver and receiver of spaces in which we can be ourselves, grow in community, and enjoy simply being with friends.

My hope is that NDCTE is a space where we practice hospitality together. Our NDCTE Connected Facebook group is one digital space where we can gather all year round and mark your calendars for July 19-20, 2022, for the NDCTE Summer Conference in Mandan.

May our communities be rich, our roots be deep, and our fruit be delightful.
With friendship and hospitality,

-Erika Dyk, President
P.S. I can't bake you cookies and bring them to your room; however, if you send me an email saying hello, I'll send you the best oatmeal chocolate chip cookie recipe I know! (erika.dyk@gmail.com),

Book Recommendations with Lisa Gusewelle

Teacher Professional Development Pick
Who's Doing the Work?
By Jan Burkins and Kim Yaris

Scaffolding reading instruction has become more necessary as we have a wild inequity gap, especially due to the virus. So what is a MS and HS teacher to do? The best plan is always to see what those brilliant elementary literacy teachers do, and that is what this book offers.

This book goes through strategies for read alouds, shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading in a way that you can easily customize to fit your class's needs.

** Valuable tip that I walked away with: Use index cards during guided reading to keep everyone focused and to prevent students from reading ahead.

Young Adult Series Pick
City of Ghosts
by Veronica Schwab

One of my students recommended doing this book as a shared reading for the class. We read the first part in the book, and now 5 of 17 students have picked it up and finished it while planning to read books 2 and 3 in the series.

Trigger warning: death, afterlife, fire, child abduction

What the book doesn't have: no romance (only friendship), no profanities, detailed descriptions of violence

Share this with Your Students
Journey to America project from Leah Juelke's Fargo South classroom

What do we have? Students with diverse experiences! What else do we have? A large group of students that don't understand them!

Leah Juelke's goal in having her students publish their stories in the books titled Journey to America is to both give the opportunity for her students to share their lived experiences and to provide an experience for those outside of her classrooms to share empathy and gain knowledge. There is often much hatred towards people with different experiences, and often times, that comes from a place of ignorance. These stories, written by the students themselves, is a way to help lift the veil of ignorance and create a more thoughtful, tolerant, and inclusive world.

PODCAST SEASON 1 COMING SOON – Focuses on North Dakota Teachers

Butte-y in Education
with Lisa Gusewelle
NDCTE's Member-at-large

@BUTTE.EDUCATION on Instagram or @GoldenGuse on Twitter

From the Square Butte of North Dakota, comes our very own Lisa Gusewelle. For her season 1 podcast, she will be focusing on professional development offered by local, state, and national organizations. If you listen, you may even hear YOUR name mentioned.

Top 5 Grammar Technology Resource Recommendations

By Nathan Kurtti- Southeast Director

When looking at grammar, it can be difficult to include it in your daily lessons if you are caught up in curriculum that you must get through in a year. However, these technology resources can be beneficial when looking at how to integrate technology in your classroom and not have to create grammar lessons from scratch. These services teach grammar and do it in an engaging fashion for students. Here are my top 5 recommendations for technology that can help with grammar instruction.

1. NoRedInk

This is my top recommendation for teaching grammar. NoRedInk has been my first go-to when teaching grammar. NoRedInk includes high-interest content, authentic assessments, blended learning, adaptive technology, and unlimited practice. Once you get students logged into your class, you simply assign the type of grammar lessons you want to give to them. This service can be used across grade levels, but I have used it for high school students.

2. Quill.org

This is a newer resource that I came across this summer and was recommended to me by one of our fellow board members Rebecca Johnson, Northeast Director. Quill.org is a beneficial grammar resource in the sense that it gives free tools to make your students better writers. It provides free writing and grammar activities for elementary, middle, and high school students.

3. IXL

IXL is a service that I worked with in my first year of teaching since my district used it for Math and English courses. IXL is like NoRedInk in the sense that it lets you assign specific grammar lessons for students to practice, and they can only move on if they master the skill or learning target. This service can be used for elementary, middle, and high school level students.

4. Flocabulary

I was just introduced to this resource recently. This resource was created by the company Nearpod that also features services for presentations in the classroom. This resource is useful if you are looking for a way to include grammar and music in your lessons. Every lesson focuses on a core knowledge or skill and has you practice that skill with interactive learning services. This is probably a service more geared towards elementary level students or middle level.

5. Grammaropolis

This grammar learning service is geared more for elementary level students, but it still includes plenty of interactive, engaging lessons for students to learn grammar that can be useful for students to learn essential skills and knowledge on grammar.

Parodies

by Lisa Quintus

as recited at the 2021 NDCTE Summer Conference

Don't Stop Believing

Just one lone girl
In an overwhelming world
She smacked a chocolate bar, and 5-hour energy

Just a stressed-out boy
searchin' for time, for grown-up joy
stayed up too late and then,
overslept again

Spending time in their classrooms
The smell of teens and cooking dreams
For the moment, they just take it in
It goes on and on, and on, and on

These teachers, staring
Up and down a long hallway
With stacks and
files in their minds
Papers, lessons
Demands of countless kinds
They're out there, workin' in the night

Don't stop believin'
Hold on to that feelin'
You rock
Keep that spark in your heart

Students, believin'
Seein' you as inspiration
Livin', their futures, in their minds

Just don't stop teachin'
Don't stop believin'

Green Eggs and Ham

I can teach it
Yes, I can

I can make it
Teacher, I am

I can make it out of paper
I can make it with a box
I make it with markers
I make it with a talk

I can teach it here, I can teach it there
I can teach it everywhere

I can make it work with a book
I can make it work with a poem
I can make it work online
Make it work when they're at home

I can make it work with the latest program
Or I can make it analog
I make it work all digital
Or use good ole dialogue

I can make it, yes I can
I can make it, teacher I am!!

I can make it to Christmas, yes I can
And to spring break, to May, and then
I can make to August
To do it all over again

I can make it, yes I can
I can make it, teacher I am!!

Imagine

Imagine there's no failure
It's easy if you try
No rigid expectations
Around us, answers why

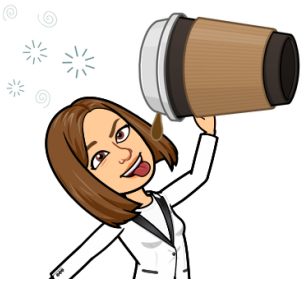
Imagine all the teachers
Teachin' for the day

Ahahaa-aah ah

Imagine there's no limits
It might be hard to do
Nothing strict to follow
The only guide is you

Imagine all the teachers
Teachin' their best way

You
You may say that we're dreamers
But we are not the only ones
We hope some day you'll join us
And our work, will be more fun....



GroundED English Teacher Meetups

Meetup with us on Zoom or in-person at local coffee shops around the state! We plan on meeting the first Saturday of each month to discuss idea, resources, or problems going on in your classroom and to fill you in on the latest deets of NDCTE. Let's bring the Burkean Parlour back, teachers! :D

·November 6th
oBully Brew in Fargo at 10 a.m.

·December 4th

·January 8th

·February 5th

·March 5th

·April 2nd

·May 7th

Would you like your favorite coffee shop visited by us? Or, are a coffee shop interested in hosting us? Write a comment on our Facebook page or send lisa.gusewelle@k12.nd.us a message.

GPSSC Conference

Donna Davidson - Northwest Director

Being an English teacher is tough. All those literacy to teach all by yourself. Isn't it great when we can team up with our colleagues in other content areas to multiply our efforts?

I have good news!

The Great Plains Social Studies Council's online conference opens October 16, and the theme this year is literacy. It will include on-demand presentations from state organizations as well as a walk through the Literacy Standards for Social Studies as found both the ND ELA and ND Social Studies standards. Registration is free, so you can sign up and peruse the offerings yourself, too.

The GPSSC website can be found here: https://greatplainssocialstudies.weebly.com/