Visual Thinking, Teaching, and Learning

Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning

Annual Conference & Three-Day Retreat: June 17-20, 2010
YMCA of the Rockies - Estes Park, Colorado

FEATURED SPEAKERS
Louann Reid & Austin Kleon

Imagination and Representation in Graphic Narratives

Graphic narratives, increasingly popular in and out of school, are garnering both scholarly and pedagogical attention. These visual texts move readers imaginatively into what Maxine Greene calls “illusioned worlds,” and simultaneously make them conscious of the constructed nature of those worlds through the panels, speech balloons, and other visual tools. We will explore productive tensions between imagination and representation in graphic narratives with two goals: to expand our thinking about these concepts in literary studies and aesthetic education and to consider the potential value and limitations of graphic narratives as texts for teaching visual thinking.

LOUANN REID is past editor of English Journal and co-author of eight innovative textbooks for secondary school students, including the Daybooks of Critical Reading and Writing series, which also incorporate lessons on teaching visual texts. She has published several articles and chapters, co-edited two collections for teachers, and given more than 150 presentations in the US, Australia, Germany, The Netherlands, and New Zealand. She is currently working on a book on teaching graphic novels. Reid is professor of English, specializing in English Education, at Colorado State University.

Drawing and Visual Thinking in the English Classroom

Graphic novels, video games, television—the youth culture of today is a visual culture. And yet, the traditional English classroom remains stubbornly verbal. This presentation will focus on drawing as a way of bridging the gap between teacher and student, and student and material.

Teaching Poetry with Newspaper Blackout Poems

Newspaper Blackout Poetry (redacting newspaper articles with a magic marker to make poems) is becoming a popular activity for teaching poetry in English classrooms. Using material from my forthcoming book, Newspaper Blackout, we will learn how to make a blackout poem, a brief history of “found poetry” and “altered texts,” strategies for using the poems as a way to respond to assigned texts, and how blackout poems fit into the new “remix” culture, and how the concept of “remix” can generate student interest in poetry.

AUSTIN KLEON is a writer who draws. His poetry collection Newspaper Blackout is forthcoming from HarperCollins in February 2010. He has drawn for clients such as Austin City Limits and South by Southwest. He works a day job designing websites, and lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife Meghan and their dog Milo. You can see his work online at www.austinkleon.com.

For more information on the 2010 AEPL conference, the call for proposals, and registration, visit www.aepl.org
An Intimate Conference and Retreat: Each year, our assembly of stages a small conference for our membership. These conferences are generally attended by 50 or so members and special guests in a retreat-like setting, such as the YMCA of the Rockies and the Mount Madonna Center overlooking Monterey Bay.

Location and Accommodations: In the summer of 2010, we will once again return to the beautiful Rocky Mountains for an intimate three-day retreat to share ideas and learning about visual thinking in the English classroom. We have reserved 50 rooms as well as meeting space at the Longs Peak Lodge, a brand new facility set just above the dining hall and administration building. Breakout sessions will be located in nearby cabins or in outdoor spaces close to our lodge.

Take Advantage and Plan Ahead: Many of our members and presenters take advantage of the conference location and summer dates by scheduling family vacations and travel around the three-day retreat. We encourage you to invite family members and friends to register or to take advantage of the many activities available at the YMCA and nearby Rocky Mountain National Park. **We will have special rates** and a meal plan for those who wish to stay in Longs Peak Lodge but not attend the conference.

Call for proposals: We are looking for panel presentations (15 minutes) or interactive workshops (75 minutes) on any aspect of visual thinking, teaching, and learning. We are also interested in presentations or workshops that account for the setting of our conference and retreat: the Colorado Rocky Mountains. See the proposal form at [www.aepl.org](http://www.aepl.org).

Audience: The Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning (AEPL), an official assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English, is open to all those interested in exploring the boundaries of teaching and learning beyond traditional disciplines and methodologies. Areas of interest include, but are by no means limited to aesthetic, emotional, and moral intelligence; archetypes; body wisdom; care in education; creativity; felt sense theory; healing; holistic learning; humanistic and transpersonal psychology; imaging; intuition; kinesthetic knowledge; meditation; narration as knowledge; reflective teaching; silence; spirituality; and visualization. **Conference attendees** include secondary and college teachers, as well as students and retired faculty.

Some possible proposal topics:

- Theoretical foundations of visual thinking, teaching, and learning
- Graphic novels
- Visual literacy
- Teaching visually
- Multimedia expression
- YouTube in the classroom
- Mindmaps/mindscapes
- Illustrating learning
- Visual narratives
- Visualization
- Creative writing
- Comics
- Visual rhetorics
- Guided meditation
- Language, thought, image
- Visual thinking and brain research
- Metaphor and image
- Iconography
- Graphic facilitation
- Graphic note-taking
- Critical thinking and visual learning
- Teaching writing
- Teaching literature
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Film studies
- Instructional technology
- Illuminated manuscripts

Send questions via email to 2010 AEPL conference chair, Laurence Musgrove at [lmusgrove@angelo.edu](mailto:lmusgrove@angelo.edu) with “AEPL Conference 2010” as your subject heading.

REGISTER ONLINE at [www.aepl.org](http://www.aepl.org). The conference will begin with dinner on Thursday, June 17 followed by an evening plenary session and conclude Sunday at breakfast, June 20. Registration rates will include lodging and cafeteria meals from Thursday evening through Sunday morning checkout.