Inquiry—Writing

References:

Portalupi, J., & Fletcher, R. J. (2001). *Nonfiction craft lessons: teaching information writing K-8*. Portland, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers,

Fletcher, R. J., & Portalupi, J. (1998). *Craft lessons: teaching writing K-8*. York, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers.

Diller, D. (2003). *Literacy work stations: making centers work*. Portland, Me.: Stenhouse Publishers.

Process:

I wanted to do more writing in my classroom and had several students who were ready to start the writing process but was unsure of where to begin. I added several things to my writing center that I liked out of Debbie Diller’s book *Literacy Work Stations*. For the past 2 years our school has been working on creating writing assessments per grade level. I collaborated with Kindergarten and we came up with a copying assessment and dictation assessment. Last year I did a few writing assessments/activities throughout the year, and all ready this year I have done more. I started with doing things like “I like\_\_\_\_. On Thanksgiving I like to eat \_\_\_\_\_.” Then we did responses to different stories. They drew something from the story, and then the SLP and I asked them what they drew and wrote it out.

My favorite writing activities were writing through a mask, and figuring out what is (and isn’t) true. The students had fun doing these two activities and they took ownership in them. I am really looking forward to doing these throughout the rest of the school year.

I liked Donna’s beginning writing she does with her Kindergarten students with the 4 boxes. I started doing this in my classroom with some of my higher students and we have been going through the writing process. One girl comes up to me every day and asks if we can write together. Sometimes I am worried that it is too much for my age, but when they are ready to stop and move on we stop. They are excited about it right now and I want that excitement to continue to be there.

I created a Glogster with pictures of writing samples and 2 voicethreads with my students writing.