

November 14, 2002

Discussion of Article:

Rachel has been really starting to portfolios and has been pleasantly surprised about how well the students are able to reflect on their work. The students looked at some of their work from the beginning of the semester and has trouble believing that it was theirs. She has decided to have a portfolio celebration at the end of the year. She has been using rubrics a lot and has realized how well the students are able to self-assess -- they seem to be rating themselves similarly to how she would.

Erica has been working a lot with graphing. She has started using individual "my goal books" so that students can see their individual progress, since overall for the class, the progress sometimes is slower. There are a number of different goals, which students as a class have picked, and students chart their progress toward each goal. Lupe suggested that Erica include a rebus on each large chart in the class, so that students can identify easier which graph is which.

Diana shared that at the meeting she was just at, Zia shared math assessments for each grade level. She suggested that maybe East San Jose should do the same.

The group talked about how using these kinds of assessments changes the language the teachers use (i.e. novice, practitioner...) and the way they talk about things, like behavior. Rachel right now is concerned that the sub(s) that will be in her room for the next few weeks won't follow through.

We talked about the importance of performance assessment for language minority students. One point was letting students performance the task in what every language they are more comfortable. We talked about the difference between multiple choice tests and performance assessment. However, Diana raised the point that we have been looking at different ways to use and look at multiple choice tests. Several points from the article that people liked were the oral proficiency rating and story telling.

Field Trip

We had a great time looking at classrooms here at East San Jose and how the teachers are using classroom-based assessment. Julia took lots of pictures, which she will put on her web site.

For next week, we decided to read the article on An Introduction on Using Portfolios in the Classroom for next week. We will also spend the next week group times coming up with a product: a set of guidelines or recommendations for using portfolios.