

Focus group questions:

Stage One – 60 minutes

Ask people to bring two pieces of writing with them (1 page of each?) to ground discussion:

How do you define “good writing” outside of school? How is your definition reflected in the piece you’ve brought?

How do you define “good writing” within your field (discipline, field, job)? How is your definition reflected in the piece you’ve brought?

How do you define “good writing” in student work? How is your definition reflected in the piece you’ve brought?

(about 20 minutes each on each of these)

Stage Two – 30 minutes

What are some of the ways you ask people to read in your class or workplace? (Prompts: do you ask people to read directions for a task and then to follow them? To read a textbook and to understand material? To read articles and/or books and analyze material?)

How do you know if they are doing a good job of reading in the ways you ask them to?

Stage Three – 30 minutes

What are some of the ways you ask people to write in your class or workplace? (Prompts: do you ask people to write expository or research essays? Argumentative papers? Summaries? Instructions for others? Brochures? Grant applications?)

How do you know if they are doing a good job of writing in the ways you ask them to?