## Friday: 9:45 – 10:30 Concurrent Session A (Bourbon)

# A4. Badges, Blogs, and Google+: Creating a Community of Writers Using Social Capital and Low-Stakes Writing

**Moderator:** Alison Hruby, Morehead State University

**Presenters:** Deanna Mascle, Devon Collins, Lauren Evans, Megan Ison

Morehead State University/Morehead Writing Project

Resources available at: <http://moreheadwritingproject.org/?page_id=1007>

**National Writing Project: Job One = Improving the teaching of writing**

Reflect on your top goal(s) for your class (just pick one if you teach many). This is the one takeaway you have for your students. (Mine for example is critical thinking)

**Low-Stakes Writing:**

Peter Elbow says:

* **Why high stakes essays?** If we ask students to articulate in clear writing what they are studying we help ensure that they will in fact learn it
* **And low stakes writing?** The goal is not to produce excellent pieces of writing but to increase how much students think about, understand, and learn what we are teaching

In small groups, discuss low-stakes writing assignments. You can begin with the list below but share your own ideas as well as those of your colleagues.

Low-Stakes Writing Assignments (some examples):

* One-sentence summaries, headlines, or six word stories (my personal favorite)
* Lists, outlines, concept maps, summary, paraphrase, annotation
* 1-minute papers, reflections, blog posts, journal posts

Come up with some low-stakes writing ideas that you could use to meet your primary goal for your class.

Now on a blank sheet of paper and using the markers provided, put your goal at the top (can you do it in a six word story or shorter?) then list at least three low-stakes writing assignments you could use to foster that goal. If you are feeling ambitious then you can add the high-stakes assignments which will develop from these low-stakes assignments.

**Social Capital**

“We are learning if we teach” – Seneca the Younger

“The one who does the teaching, does the learning” – Lev Vygotsky

Social capital is essentially the investment of your time, energy, and knowledge in a specific community and the benefits you derive from that investment.  Social capital gives leverage to do more than a single person could do alone. It is efficiently harnessing the power (time, energy, knowledge, skills) of others for a common purpose. People are willing to give of themselves, to either pay it forward or pay it back, because they can trust they will receive just as they give.

Make the rounds of the posters designed by the other participants and as a group decide how the badges provided will be awarded.