

Lesson 2. Cultural Conversations Online: Joining Youth Voices and Reading Collaboratively

Collaboration is important to our shared thinking. By brainstorming ideas with one another, we can generate more possibilities for writing. Also, we can make our own work better by offering feedback to one another.

Today's work focuses on reviewing our profiles to get another perspective and share ideas with collaborative reading.

Activity 1: Reading a Mentor Text

Read the example profile below. Highlight, underline, or put a star next to elements of the profile that stand out to you as important to know or that demonstrate voice as a writer.

- What do you appreciate about this profile?
- What might you suggest that the author add or revise?
- How might the author further incorporate "self" and "world" questions into his profile?



Youth Voices Logo

Source: Youth Voices Logo, <http://youthvoices.net/> Used with permission.

My name is Bob. I attend Okemos High School, and I am a freshman. I enjoy reading science fiction books, and I enjoy playing soccer. Other interests of mine include hanging out with friends, listening to music, and learning how to play the guitar. I enjoy socializing with friends at sporting events and on social media. I have a cat and dog, and two sisters. I enjoy sharing ideas with others. I am interested in the universe, and I wonder if alien life-forms exist. Does the government cover up alien interactions? What would I find if I visited another planet? Are any aliens like those we watch on Star Wars? I am also interested in paleontology. My favorite dinosaurs are the Triceratops and Tyrannosaurus rex. I would love to go on a dinosaur dig. I wonder, How many fossils are yet to be found? How did the dinosaurs go extinct? In what ways can our society work to prevent such destruction from happening again? Are any alien life-forms similar to dinosaurs?

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Activity 2: Review Profiles

In small groups, review your profile drafts. In Google Drive, share your profile draft with your writing group. Respond to one another using the following questions:

- What does each profile suggest about the author?
- In what ways is this profile appropriate for an academic social network?
- Review the writer's "self" and "world" questions. Do the questions make sense to other readers? If not, why not?
- What might be revised so that others understand the writer's questions?
- In what ways might the questions spark further research or discussion with others on Youth Voices?
- Offer any other constructive comments or questions for the writer.

Activity 3: Join Youth Voices (or Your Class's Online Community)

- Create an account at <http://youthvoices.net/user/register>.
- Copy and paste your revised profile from Google Drive into your bio on Youth Voices.
- Create your profile!