

*REFLECTION*  
*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT -*  
*HELLO LITERACY CONFERENCE*  
*ELIZABETH RINKES*

**Description:**

This professional development is presented by Jen Jones. The picture on my eportfolio is from when I attended her conference in February 2019 with some colleagues. We attended to gain additional strategies for teaching reading and sparking a love for reading in students. It was a very motivating conference and I immediately made changes in my classroom the following Monday. The students are loving the changes we have made and I've already noticed a change in their motivation.

**Impact:**

Two things that I implemented immediately was the picture of the day and the writer's journal with Writer of the Week winners. The picture of the day activity is a collection of miscellaneous pictures. The images are used for the students to make inferences based on observations. For example, the students are shown an image on a two girls getting pizza from a table of food. The students can observe that they are standing on grass and there is a cooler next to the table, so they can infer that they are at a barbeque. The students can observe that the table also has supplies for s'mores in a basket, so they can infer that the barbeque will likely continue into the evening and have a bonfire. The other activity that I've implemented already was having the students write in their spiral journals twice a week. One entry, they write a response to a prompt that I provide them, and the other entry is a free entry in which the students can write about any topic they choose. I use these journal entries to choose one writer of the week. These winners are announced in our grade-wide newsletter as well as our building-wide newsletter that our principal releases.

**Intent:**

The picture of the day activity is intended to make students think outside of their typical observations. For example, the students begin giving answers based on where the shadows are in the picture and infer that it must be evening rather than the middle of the day when there wouldn't be any shadows. The students begin giving in depth observations and inferences that may challenge their thinking. This trains them to be

stronger observers in their everyday life. In addition, the Writer of Week is the perfect way to spotlight the students and give them motivation to work hard on their writing, while also allowing them to choose what to write about. Students thrive when given choice, and are able share their thoughts. Since implementing these two strategies, I've noticed a huge impact on my students and their motivation as well as their observation skills.