



Text and Academic Authors Foundation Professional Learning Community



(TAAF-PLC)

What is TAAF-PLC?

“TAAF-PLC” is the Text and Academic Authors Foundation (TAAF) professional learning community online. Its mission goals: a) provide Text and Academic Authors Association’s 1400+ members with access to an Internet-based knowledge and information forum for teaching advanced skills in textbook and academic authorship; b) serve as an engaged-learning forum to support community outreach initiatives for educating and training secondary and postsecondary students in learning the applied art and science of producing and publishing scientific works and learning how to learn from expert mentors in a measurable and tangible way (i.e. what is required to perform with excellence at the next level of academia).

The TAAF-PLC is guided by the National Science Foundation’s *Cyberinfrastructure Vision for 21st Century Discovery*, March 2007. This forum employs the instructional design blended-learning model allowing for members to participate in scheduled training workshops provided “face-to-face” (F2F) and by distance learning methodology.

Because time is the number one reason most cited as preventing TAA members from participating in F2F workshops, the TAAF-PLC is conceptualized as a key method for solving faculty issues with “time management”. The online forum allows the members to learn, practice, and fine-tune their academic authorship skills as they post their works to the TAAF-PLC via a security protected “virtual private network” (VPN) wherein they network, collaborate, and receive instruction, reviews, critiques, and recommendations from TAAF expert mentors and colleagues on an ongoing basis.

The TAAF-PLC also serves the important purpose of preparing members in advance of scheduled F2F workshops and/or as a complementary learning method to support ongoing F2F workshops. For example, in cases like: S.N.A.P professional development workshops (Searby, 2008) and TAA Chapters receiving coordinated training in academic authorship as an ongoing course of study.

The TAAF-PLC enables faculty, teachers, and students to come together to build an interactive, expressive arts and sciences “professional learning community”. To accomplish this, the learning community has access to a number of communication and interactive media tools. This includes using VPN features such as: creating and storing of electronic portfolios, podcast conferencing, archiving, analysis, and reporting of results, including upon demand, instant access messaging to exchange ideas and critique performance; upon-demand access to expert rating devices, interactive educational media tools, and feedback forum for judging progress and performance.



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The TAAF-PLC is an innovative Internet project designed for faculty and newly developing intellectual capital (secondary and postsecondary students) to explore instructional approaches that encourage creativity in teachers and students. That is to say, skills development through making and doing that promotes both foundational learning and open-ended problem-solving. In summary, the TAAF-PLC is an academic and intellectual forum made up of World Class faculty, teachers, and their students who will work as a professional learning community without boundaries to achieve new standards and metrics in how students and teachers learn-to-learn in the new frontier of Internet Broadcasting for academic leadership.