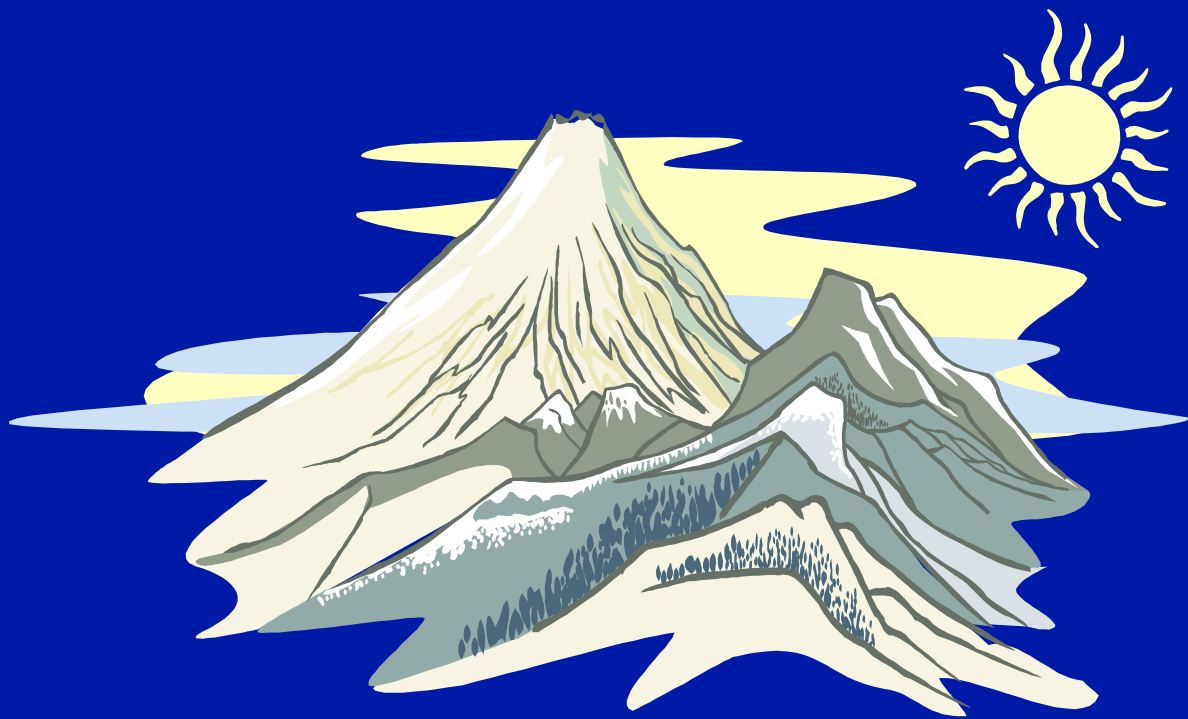


# Literacy for Powerful Thinking in the Middle Grades

The Turning Points National Conference  
on Adolescent Literacy



Denver, Colorado  
February 2-4, 2005

## **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

|                       |  |                          |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>3:00 pm - 6:00</b> | <b>REGISTRATION</b>  | <b>Mezzanine Foyer</b>   |
| <b>5:30 - 6:30</b>    | <b>RECEPTION</b>   | <b>Majestic Ballroom</b> |
| <b>6:30 - 8:30</b>    | <b>DINNER AND EVENING PROGRAM</b>  | <b>Majestic Ballroom</b> |
|                       | Dinner<br>A Selection of Songs – performed by the Rocky Mountain Children’s Choir<br>Recognition of schools recently affirmed by the Turning Points Network<br>Opening Remarks – Sara Freedman, New England Turning Points |                          |

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

|                       |   |                          |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>6:45 am - 8:00</b> | <b>BREAKFAST</b>  | <b>Majestic Ballroom</b> |
| <b>7:00 - 8:00</b>    | <b>REGISTRATION</b>   | <b>Majestic Ballroom</b> |
| <b>8:15 - 9:30</b>    | <b>“Mike’s Anterior Lobe, Fruit Flies, and the Landscape of Learning”<br/>Keynote address by Dr. Kylee Beers, Yale University</b> | <b>Majestic Ballroom</b> |
| <b>9:30 - 9:45</b>    | <b>BREAK</b>  |                          |
| <b>9:45 - 12:00</b>   | <b>LITERACY STRANDS</b>   |                          |

**Working with Turning Points facilitators, participants will be in role-alike groups that explore the following questions:**

- » What do we mean by literacy in the adolescent years?
- » How does literacy provide access to powerful thinking?
- » How do middle grades educators use literacy strategies to engage students in powerful thinking in all of their classes?
- » How do you develop a coherent, school-wide approach to literacy?

### **Administrators Strand**

Facilitators: Luella Stilley, Northwest Turning Points and Kevin Keaney, New England Turning Points

**Spruce Room**

### **Facilitators Strand (Coaches and In-House Facilitators)**

Facilitators: Susan Shellenberger and Kathy Reckendorf, Amherst Regional Middle School

**Denver Room**

### **Teacher Leaders Strand – Section 1**

Facilitators: Sara Freedman and Frank DeVito, New England Turning Points

**Century Room**

### **Teacher Leaders Strand – Section 2**

Facilitators: JoAnn Groh and Santo Nicotera, Southwest Turning Points

**Colorado Room**

### **School-Based Strand**

Facilitators: Brook O’Drobinak, Colorado Turning Points and Reza Sarkarati, New England Turning Points

**Gold Room**

**\*\* Please Note: Pre-registration was required for the School-Based Strand. Please see the list in your binder.**

|                     |  |                      |
|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>12:00 - 1:00</b> | <b>LUNCH</b>   | <b>Majestic Room</b> |
| <b>1:00 - 4:30</b>  | <b>STRANDS CONTINUE</b>  |                      |
|                     | <b>Administrators Strand</b>                                   | <b>Spruce Room</b>   |
|                     | <b>Facilitators Strand (Coaches and In-House Facilitators)</b> | <b>Denver Room</b>   |
|                     | <b>Teacher Leaders Strand – Section 1</b>                      | <b>Century Room</b>  |
|                     | <b>Teacher Leaders Strand – Section 2</b>                      | <b>Colorado Room</b> |
|                     | <b>School-Based Strand – (Returns at 2:30)</b>                 | <b>Gold Room</b>     |
| <b>4:30</b>         | <b>END OF DAY -- Evening and Dinner on your own</b>            |                      |

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

7:00 a.m. - 8:15 BREAKFAST

Majestic Ballroom

8:30 - 10:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### WORKSHOPS

#### **Numeracy Across the Curriculum**

**Century Room**

Never fear, this workshop is not just for math teachers! This workshop will present strategies and tools that use math as a springboard and bridge to higher order thinking skills outside the math classroom. The workshop will walk participants through an integrated series of lessons that work in all content areas and strengthen and support key math and literacy concepts for a wide range of middle level learners. *(Sara Freedman, New England Turning Points)*

#### **Helping English Language Learners Access New Content in the Regular Education Classroom**

**Denver Room**

This workshop will focus on a variety of strategies, activities, and adaptations for use with English Language Learners in mainstream classes. The strategies emphasize language development and reading and writing supports, and can be adapted to work with most subjects, grade and fluency levels. The workshop will concentrate on developing reading comprehension and writing skills and on how to use collaborative groups to support language learning. Though specifically targeting the language development needs for ELLs, the strategies can be used to improve comprehension for all students. *(Danielle Carrigo, Center for Collaborative Education)*

#### **Reading and Thinking Strategies to Get Below the Surface**

**Gold Room**

Ever wonder why your middle school students aren't reading and understanding the texts given to them? Ever wonder why they aren't thinking below the surface? It may be because they don't know how. In this workshop you will learn and EXPERIENCE the reading and thinking strategies that your students need, and you will receive the materials to try them in your classroom.. *(Luella Stilley, Northwest Turning Points)*

#### **Embedding Literacy in an Inclusive Social Studies Curriculum**

**Silver Room**

In this workshop we will use teacher and student work to demonstrate how to design and implement lessons that explicitly teach comprehension strategies for reading, writing, thinking, speaking, and problem-solving. We will also demonstrate how you can connect these lessons with backward-designed units and differentiated instruction so every student can be successful. *(Irene Laroche and Denise Boyd, teachers, Amherst (MA) Regional Middle School)*

#### **Yes, Writing Workshop Can Be Done in the Middle Grades**

**Colorado Room**

This workshop will focus on all the little steps it takes to create a real writer's workshop in the middle grades classroom. We'll start with how to get kids writing and move on to developing a culture of revision, peer conferencing, using rubrics with students, and student self-reflection. Most importantly we'll work on the distinction between telling students how to write and teaching them how to be writers. *(Ben Lummis, National Turning Points)*

### ROUNDTABLES

#### **Developing a School Climate for Improving Literacy**

**Spruce Room**

Lewis and Clark Middle School made improvement of student literacy a school-wide priority in 2001. This roundtable will tell the story of our school's journey of setting goals, creating and revising reading classes, changing classroom practices, coordinating staff development, initiating a tuition reimbursement program for staff, and implementing assessment, diagnostic programs, and data collection/analysis. The challenges and successes along the way will be shared, as well as information on our future plans to continue our journey. *(Bob Steffes, Principal, Lewis and Clark Middle School, Jefferson City, MO)*

10:30 - 10:45 BREAK

10:45 - 12:00 LITERACY STRANDS CONTINUE

#### **Administrators Strand**

**Century Room**

#### **Facilitators Strand (Coaches and In-House Facilitators)**

**Colorado Room**

#### **Teacher Leaders Strand – Section 1**

**Silver Room**

#### **Teacher Leaders Strand – Section 2**

**Gold Room**

#### **School-Based Strand**

**Denver Room**

12:00 - 1:00 WRAP-UP, CLOSING, AND LUNCH

Majestic Ballroom

The logo features the text "Turning Points" in a white serif font. "Turning" is on the top line and "Points" is on the bottom line. A thick white horizontal bar is positioned below "Points". To the right of the text, a white circular arc is partially visible, with a dashed line of five white triangles pointing towards it from the top-left. Below the main text, the subtitle "Transforming the Middle Grades" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# Turning Points

Transforming the Middle Grades

[www.turningpts.org](http://www.turningpts.org)