

Subj: **Feedback from June 11, 2004 workshop**  
Date: 10/4/2004 5:02:39 PM Eastern Standard Time  
From: obrienjennifer@rockwood.k12.mo.us  
To: Larryibell@aol.com

Mr. Bell,

My name is Jenny O'Brien and I had the privilege of attending your workshop "Closing the Achievement Gap" on June 11, 2004. I had just finished a 3 day workshop on differentiation when I came to your workshop. I learned more from you than any other workshop I took this past summer. You are one speaker I was disappointed when the seminar ended.

The reason I am writing is to let you know the ideas that were presented that day, I immediately started to find ways to implement them. I teach 6th grade Language Arts and I am always looking for better ways to improve my strategy for teaching. I teach 70 students, (3 classes). One suggestion you gave was to give everyone power names. So, I took your idea and gave each class their own "name": gifted and talented, smart and shining and the wonderful/wondrous ones. I think one of the greatest achievements I have made yet is how these students take pride in their name and address themselves as that title. I even have students who go so far as to sign their name: "Your gifted and talented student, Sarah".

I didn't know if people took the time to write and tell you how your ideas are "magic" that truly work and make a difference. So, I wanted to tell you thank you. Your workshop made such a difference in my teaching. You are a phenomenal speaker/teacher. I thank you for your words of wisdom.

Sincerely,  
Jenny O'Brien

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