

SHOW ME THE PEOPLE:

HOW TO WARM UP THE HUMAN ELEMENT OF YOUR STORIES

MSPRA presentation by Charles Honey, Kent ISD School News Network

- *SHOW, DON'T TELL* – ILLUSTRATE THE PROGRAM/IDEA THROUGH A REAL CHILD OR TEACHER – DON'T TELL US *ABOUT* IT, DIRECTLY
DESCRIBE and REVEAL IT
- *ASK*: WHAT ARE THINGS YOU AS THE READER WOULD WANT TO KNOW?
- *BE A CAMERA* – DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT THE READER TO SEE FIRST, AND FOCUS IN ON THAT
- *BE VIVID AND CONCRETE* – DESCRIBE DETAILS OF SCENE, STUDENT AND TEACHER:
 - WHAT IS HANGING ON THE WALLS? WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THE BOARD? WHAT ARE THOSE GOLDFISH DOING OVER THERE?
 - WHAT IS THE TEACHER IS DOING WITH THE CLASS? WHAT ARE THE STUDENTS WRITING OR WORKING ON? WHAT QUESTIONS ARE THEY ASKING? WHAT THEY ARE WEARING?
 - LET THE READER *SEE THEM* AND *HEAR THEM* – **SHOW ME THE PERSON!**
- *GET UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL* – GET ON THE FLOOR OR SIT IN THE LITTLE CHAIRS, SEE THINGS FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT
 - FOCUS ON JUST A COUPLE STUDENTS, THEN ANOTHER ONE OR TWO, NOT 25 ALL AT ONCE
- *ASK VERY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS (NOT YES OR NO SET-UPS)*
 - *FOR STUDENTS*: WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON? HOW DID YOU FIGURE THIS OUT? HOW DIFFICULT IS THIS FOR YOU? WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT DOING THIS?
 - *FOR TEACHERS*: WHAT IDEAS OR CONCEPTS ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ACROSS? WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES OF THIS PARTICULAR LESSON OR SUBJECT? WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT WORKING WITH THESE STUDENTS? FRUSTRATIONS? *WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?*
 - *GET INSIDE THEIR HEADS, MOTIVATIONS, JOURNEY* – MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER STORY THERE!