

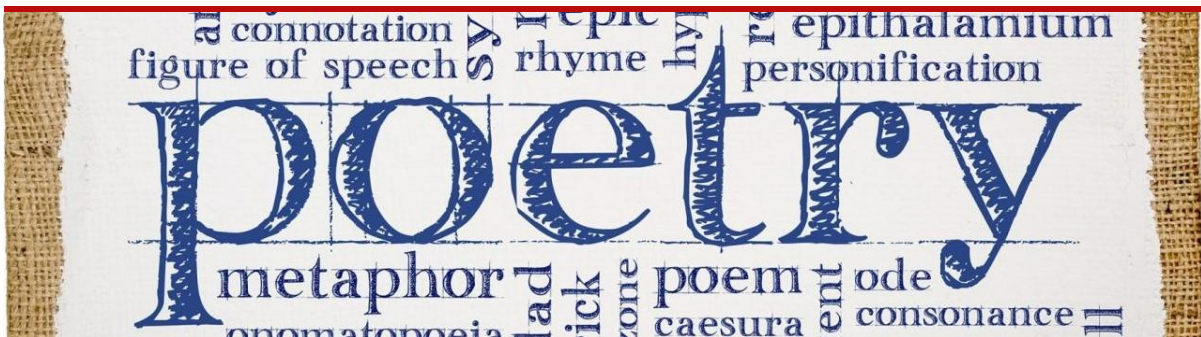


April 2022



The AZ CSP Zip

Arizona Charter Schools Program



30 Ways to Celebrate National Poetry Month

Dr. Mark Francis Writes

Of Michelangelo and Instructional Rounds

When I first discovered Eliot's *The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock* in high school I was, to use a 60's term, *blown away*. Like many young people who overly obsessed about life and who were in a quandary about who we are and where we are going, the poem awoke in me to the possibilities of poetry not merely as an artistic form but about how obscure life's questions are; and, how I needed to attain a much deeper level of knowledge to grasp at its mysteries.

That quest led me back to the simple verse of my childhood. Even in seemingly transparent children's verse, rhyme and meter could give impact to the images that a poet is trying to create that which in turn creates an internal rhythm to depict meaning, emotion, or feeling.

More complicated poetry delights in hiding its meaning, often starting its verse with an object and not the subject and then meandering through numerous vibrant, visual allusions or verbal alliterations and assonances before getting to its subject many lines later. Prufrock's indecisiveness about what course he should take, not unlike [Hamlet's indecisiveness](#) (though far less lethal), is about an impending marriage proposal. However, Eliot uses that question to look at his role in an indifferent universe where he seems to be anesthetized or floating on an ocean or in a gallery where -

*...the women come and go
Talking of Michelangelo.*

So, where am I going with this in a monthly newsletter for leaders of charter schools who are participating in Instructional Rounds and learning about Formative Assessment?

I have found that as AZCSP school leaders participate in [Instructional Rounds](#) over multiple years, your ability to gather data objectively has greatly increased. We are no longer comparing classroom environments to What We Want to See to What We Are Really Seeing. Where many continue to struggle is how to find the most meaningful evidence in our classroom observations to gather the right information that truly tells us what students are learning. It becomes difficult to analyze the evidence for "facts" because there is so much activity going on in a classroom, we become overwhelmed and struggle to reach conclusions. Dylan Wiliam says that a "fact," within our formative assessment context, is "evidence related to a claim." How do we sort out the data to find real evidence and then make a claim?

Like poetry, the classroom is THERE for us to observe and absorb its details. As we continue to observe classrooms for evidence of learning, we need to improve our observational skills so that we can gather the best and most relevant data to help us come to valid and reliable conclusions based on facts. Without those valid, reliable, and conclusive facts, creating a [Theory of Action](#) for improvement may lead us down the wrong path and waste valuable time. Instructional Rounds is not a game, it is a critically important process to challenge our perceptions and lead us forward to meaningful possibilities.

Eliot said that *April is the cruelest month*. It gives us hope of Spring only to have it dashed by decay in Autumn and death in Winter. While I sympathize with the poet, I continue to remain hopeful that our challenge is to improve instructional practice across all AZCSP awarded schools, to create truly engaged students, and to bring a sense of agency and hope to their lives.

We still have two more months of school. Let's make the most of them.

[Click here for a poem about a Principal who's missing.](#)

AZCSP by the Numbers

March Data

Number of Professional Development Sessions: 17

Number of Professional Development Hours: 36.5

Number of Participants in Professional Development Sessions: 194

School Year (2021-22) to Date

Number of Professional Development Sessions: 128

Number of Professional Development Hours: 253

Number of Participants in Professional Development Sessions: 1557

Looking Ahead

Remember to **add relevant dates** to your calendar.

Instructional Rounds

There are no Instructional Rounds during April

Formative Assessment Training

04/05/2022

Liberty

3:00 - 4:30pm

Kaleidoscope

3:30 - 5:00pm

04/06/2022

AMS Avondale

12:30 - 2:00pm

04/07/2022

CASA

1:00 - 2:30pm

04/08/2022

A+

1:00 - 2:30pm

Scholars

1:30 - 3:00pm

08/13/2022

AMS Peoria Advanced

2:00 - 3:30pm

AMS South Mountain

2:00 - 3:30pm

04/15/2022

Ridgeview

2:00 - 3:30pm

04/20/2022

Legacy East Tucson

1:00 - 2:30pm

Maryvale Prep

2:15 - 3:45pm

AMS Glendale

2:00 - 3:30pm

04/21/2022

Synergy

1:00 - 2:30pm

Empower

2:00 - 3:30pm

04/26/2022

Heritage Maricopa

4:00 - 5:15pm

04/27/2022

Legacy Deer Valley

2:00 - 3:30pm

Legacy Mesa

2:30 - 4:00pm

04/29/2022

Leading Edge East Mesa

12:30 - 2:00pm

Somerset

12:30 - 2:00pm

A+

1:00 - 2:30pm

03/31/2022

Empower

2:00 - 3:30pm



Effé Café

Effé Café is a great way to get the support you need when you need it.

04/04/2022
and
04/18/2022

Check the most recent email invitation for updated passcode!

[Join FA Cafe Here](#)

Free Resources for National Poetry Month

[Emerge Poems](#)

[Poetry Prompts](#)

[GOLDEN BUZZER](#)

Contacts



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