

Celebrate Writing: High Tech (Musselwhite, 2009)

Why Celebrate?

Deanna Wagner and I have long stressed the importance of celebrating writing for a number of reasons:

- **Effort = Reward:** many of the individuals we work with struggle to write, are reluctant writers, and / or are very sloooooow writers; it's important that they get significant 'bang for the buck'!
- **Permanence of Writing:** When writing is celebrated by making it into an art form (ex: adding stickers or drawings, putting it in a frame, putting it on a box), it is far more likely to be kept in a place of honor (on the refrigerator or a wall, by Dad's bed, etc)
- **Purpose for Revising and Editing:** Just as stories must be edited before they are 'published' turning simple writing (e.g., a list poem) into an artwork gives writers extra motivation for revising and editing.
- **Demonstrating Value:** The simple act of turning words into an art form shows writers that we value their work, and that it is worth keeping.

Wordles!!

Wordles are artworks made from a list of words. This is easy and feels **MAGICAL** - young children and adults alike will be delighted to see their writing turned into art. The wonderful thing about a Wordle is that it looks very high tech, but is very very easy!! It's a great high-success activity for individuals who are techno-phobic!!

Tip: You might have to restart your web browser, clearing the memory (cache) before you do the Wordle).

A Wordle would be a perfect celebration to use for a present:

- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Birthday
- Party
- Congratulations
- Get well

Here's how to make a wordle:

- 1) Go to the wordles website: www.wordles.net
- 2) Click on <create>
- 3) Paste in your text, then click on <go>
- 4) VOILA - instant word art!! You can change colors, layout and font to get different looks for your wordles. We had students calling out directions and making comments using their AAC devices (MORE COLOR, I WANT PINK; AWESOME!; BORING; NEED MORE BLUE).

Below is a poem & wordle that a teen made from his I Like poem about the prom (using the I Like template on the *Write to Talk Suite CD!!*)

Prom
By Steven

I like do my hair
I like eat
I like dance
I like to take pictures
I like do my hair do my hair
I like friend
Remember friend



Enjoy!!