English Faculty Exchange
December 5, 2012

In attendance: 23 English faculty and administrators from area high schools, O-U BOCES, SUNY Orange and Mount Saint Mary College

TOPIC: TEACHING GRAMMAR – BEST PRACTICES

Attendees were invited to bring a grammar-related best practice to share with the group. Roger Kalin, Chairperson, Goshen Central High School English Department, and Pat Sculley, Chairperson, SUNY Orange English Department, began the discussion by offering examples of types of lessons taught in their departments. Mr. Kalin talked about incorporating grammar in discussions about specific poems and historical documents as a tool for both teaching grammar and “unraveling” the meaning of a piece of writing. (See handout – Common Core Language Standards) Professor Sculley talked about teaching grammar and punctuation as part of the editing process. (See handout – Editing Exercise)

Others also contributed ideas, handouts, and suggestions for texts for classroom use and books for further reading. These included:

- Handout – Grammar in English 9 and English 12 (Theresa Baker, Goshen Central High School)
- Lesson on active and passive voice: Handout – Babe Smith, Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition, 8th Edition (Dr. Peter Witkowsky, Mount Saint Mary College)
- Handout – Grammar Tips (Dr. Evelyn Schneider, Goshen Central High School)
- www.grammardog.com
- Books on writing by Amy Benjamin (www.amybenjamin.com)
- Sentence Combining: A Composing Book by William Strong