

Sparkling Authentic Research Through Poetry - CommunityShare Engagement Details

Teacher: Krista Gypton and Eve Rifkin

Artist: Logan Phillips

Subjects: English

Grade Level: 12th grade

<p>Focus and Essential Questions</p>	<p>As part of kicking off a Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) project, teachers invited Logan to jumpstart student engagement with the issues that most impact them and their communities.</p> <p>Logan Phillips, co-founder of the local nonprofit Spoken Futures, developed organizational goals to empower student voice through slam poetry. He co-founded the Tucson Youth Poetry Slam, or TYPS, which for several years has cultivated and nourished a vibrant youth poetry and spoken word scene in Tucson. Eve and Krista were familiar with his work and reached out with an email to invite him to spark their students' interest in their own lives and experiences through the medium of poetry.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where am I from? • What issues most impact us and our communities? • How can we use Youth Participatory Action Research to address a chosen issue? What is a relevant issue in our own community? • What research is needed and how best can we communicate that research as we work on solutions?
<p>Overview of Share</p>	<p>Prior to the first visit,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read works by Paulo Freire and bell hooks. • Explore Funds of Knowledge Framework <p>Visit 1 Logan shared performances of his own poetry, explained lines and themes from some of his pieces, and then had the students write. They worked with a prompt "Where I Am From" that inspired students to use metaphor, imagery, and description to explore and reveal the intimate details of their own origins.</p> <p>Visit 2 After the first visit, the students had a solid rough draft of a poem, and they received specific suggestions for how to enhance their writing. Logan again performed original work.</p> <p>Visit 3 The primary goal was to have everyone share their work by reading it aloud. It was crucial to have Logan there to guide the students along throughout the process and to create an atmosphere of encouragement and supportive safety.</p>
<p>Assessment Ideas</p>	<p>Students read one another's poems and give each other feedback for improvement.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p>	<p>Next year, they envision creating more opportunities for even deeper engagement and integration of poetry within the YPAR project itself, not solely as inspiration for choosing relevant topics for research. They also want the students to have opportunities to "write poetry about the interviews they had, instead of just incorporating sterile quotes."</p>