



SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021 | 1:15-2:15 PM ET

Transformative Learning Experiences During Covid-19: Lessons from an Alternative School on Re-Engaging Youth in their Learning

PRESENTERS:

- **Christy Kingham**, Springpoint
- **Geoffrey Schmidt**, Opportunity Academy
- **Izayah Rivera**, Opportunity Academy
- **Jacob Ortiz Rosario**, Opportunity Academy
- **Isaiah Acevedo**, Opportunity Academy
- **Kenneth Daviau**, Opportunity Academy





Welcome

Christy Kingham

Director, Leadership & School Design at Springpoint



Springpoint



Geoffrey Schmidt

Engagement Director and School Design Team Lead

Alternative Ed

Curriculum &
Coaching

School Design



Session Agenda



- Introduction and Overview
- What are Transformative Learning Experiences?
- Student Work Exhibition
- Student Panel
- Wrap Up
- Question and Answer

Objectives



- Learn about how an alternative school in MA leveraged Transformative Learning Experiences to make learning come to life
- Hear directly from students about how Transformative Learning Experiences are helping them stay engaged in school and build their identities as learners.
- Understand the potential impact of rigorous and purposeful project-based learning on student engagement, achievement and post-secondary readiness

About Opportunity Academy



What

Opportunity Academy is a set of alternative high school pathways that allow students to continue or restart on a pathway to a diploma.

Why

Our school empowers learners who were previously disengaged with school to develop their academic, and socioemotional skills; and to envision and achieve a rewarding life. During the span from 2017-2020, we cut HPS' dropout rates from 7.8% to 3.4%

How

We emphasize **robust and relevant project-based learning, and learning opportunities that extend beyond our school's walls (TLEs);** a competency-based approach; and strong, lasting relationships.

What If.....



Every student could finally answer the question, “Why do we have to learn this?” in a meaningful and personally resonant way?

School actually helped students discover who they are, what they care about, and what they need to learn and be able to do in order to realize their goals?

Transformative Learning Experiences

Bring learning to life



- ④ **Focus on high-interest topics and questions** that are tied to student interests, passions, and identities.
- ④ **Are built to be purposeful**, by incorporating creative expression, real-world problem solving, and applications that students will find valuable
- ④ **Foster critical thinking** by grounding projects in deep inquiry into open-ended problems.
- ④ **Put the cognitive lift on students**—not teachers—to help learners construct and create meaning.
- ④ **Connect students to authentic audiences** of experts, community members, and peers to learn from, present their work, and build meaningful relationships.
- ④ **Prioritize the most critical and overarching components** of the CCSS, NGSS, SAT, and other college-ready standards.
- ④ **Incorporate culturally responsive pedagogy** to support students in becoming independent learners.
- ④ **Offer robust resources for teachers**, including lesson-level guidance, rubrics, and exemplars.

Student Work Exhibition & Panel



Jacob Ortiz
SLAM POETRY



Izayah Rivera
YOU AUTO KNOW



Isaiah Acevedo
THE FOUND PROJECT



Kenneth Daviau
My P.O.V.

The Boston Globe
OUT OF A CRISIS: THE VOICES OF OUR STUDENTS

The lockers, once full of ideas with all the books stuffed inside them, are now just full of memories

By Jacob Ortiz Rosario Updated January 4, 2020, 3:14 p.m.

But now the hallways are filled with the sounds of the old plastic, squeaky, janitors' cart.

The dirty floors of my lunchroom were always eager to catch crumbs of the cheesy, crunchy, crusted pizza.

But now, they are hungry for the loud tables, full of messy students

The pool was excited by the crowds of swimming students.

Now, it is still, motionless water, sick with the smell of chlorine.

Data
Initial Costs
Trim line
Initial Price
Sales Tax
Title Fee
Total Initial Cost
Recurring Fees
Registration
Registration x 3
State Inspection



...no matter the situation I was in I would make sure the people around me had everything they needed before I would worry about me.

Jacob O. | Slam Poetry

The Boston Globe

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Driving Question

How can you use the techniques of Slam Poetry to move your audience such that they understand and feel some part of your experience, point of view, or perspective?

Creative Artifact

Students will craft and perform their own piece of SLAM for a public audience that conveys a personal insight, experience, or point of view.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Data	Honda Civic Hatchback	Subaru impreza			
2	Initial Costs	Honda civic hatchback	Subaru impreza			
3	Trim line	IX CVT Hatchback	limited 4 door CVT			
4	Initial Price		\$26,860	\$22,990		
5	Sales Tax	6.25%	\$1,679	\$1,437		Spreadsheet Color Key
6	Title Fee		\$75	\$75		Data points categories
7	Total Initial Cost		\$28,614	\$24,501.88		Data inputs
8						Calculations
9	Recurring Fees	Honda Civic Hatchback	Subaru impreza			Category Total
10	Registration		\$60.00	\$60.00		
11	Registration x 3	3	\$180.00	\$180.00		
12	State Inspection		\$35.00	\$35.00		
13	State Inspection x 5	5	\$175.00	\$175.00		
14	Total Recurring Fees		\$355.00	\$355.00		
15						
16	Fuel costs	Honda Civic Hatchback	Subaru impreza			
17	Average price gallon of gas		\$2.86	\$2.86		
18	highway miles per week		50	50		
19	city miles per week		300	300		
20	miles per gallon (highway)		42	36		

Driving Question

How can we use math to inform major financial decisions?

Creative Artifact

Conduct a client meeting to help them understand the hidden costs of purchasing a vehicle via a detailed spreadsheet comparing various data for two different vehicles over a 5 year ownership period.

Driving Question

What have I “found” during the pandemic? Who am I now?

Creative Artifact

A visual piece that communicates your response to the driving question. The visual piece could include: a photo, a cartoon, a collage, a drawing, a painting, or a mixed-medium or genre-mixing piece.



Growing up I was grinding day and night to get what I needed to get, I would make sure people around me were good before I worried about myself. What this means is that no matter the situation I was in I would make sure the people around me had everything they needed before I would worry about me.

Driving Question

Who am I? How did I get to be me? How can I share my story with the world?

Creative Artifact

A work of narrative nonfiction that illustrates the character growth, values, reflection, and personal insight of the author. This may be shared as a personal statement with colleges or with another public audience.



Core Elements of a Deep Learning Experience

If We Want...

- Build relationships and community
- Foster student love of learning
- Cultivate a sense of self-efficacy in students
- Increase student achievement
- Build college and career readiness

We Need To...

Ensure students have deep learning experiences, grounded in rigor and purpose. These two elements are mutually reinforcing and work together to support **deep engagement, conceptual understanding,** and **essential skill building for students.**



Questions

To Learn More



Transformative Learning Experiences During COVID-19

Lessons from an Alternative School on Re-Engaging Youth in their Learning

[DOWNLOAD PRESENTATION](#)

TLE AND SPRINGPOINT RESOURCES

[TLE OVERVIEW](#)

[THE FOUND PROJECT TLE](#)

[NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE: THE FOUND PROJECT](#)

[DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE TLE](#)

[MORE SPRINGPOINT RESOURCES](#)

MORE ABOUT OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY

[OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY WEBSITE](#)

[OPPORTUNITY ACADEMY ARTICLE](#)



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Email Address

The background of the entire slide is a collage of various photographs showing people at a symposium. Some photos show individuals speaking at podiums, others show groups of people in discussion, and some show audience members. The Aurora Institute logo, featuring a stylized star and the text 'AURORA INSTITUTE', is visible in the top left corner of the collage. The main title 'AURORA INSTITUTE Symposium' is centered at the top in a large, white, serif font. Below the title is a thin horizontal line.

AURORA INSTITUTE *Symposium*

OCTOBER 25-27, 2021 | VIRTUAL

“Leading Competency-Based Education Redesign”

Thank you for joining us!

Share Your Thoughts.
Participate in our one-minute poll (link in chat
box).