

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



Session Agenda



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

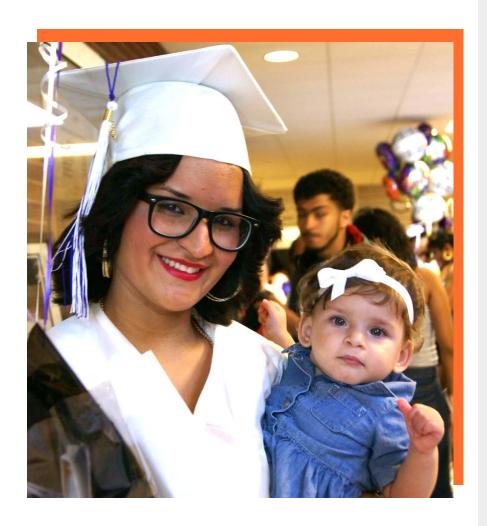
Objectives



- Near 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



- Focus on high-interest topics and questions that are tied to student interests, passions, and identities.
- Are built to be purposeful, by incorporating creative expression, real-world problem solving, and applications that students will find valuable
- Foster critical thinking by grounding projects in deep inquiry into open-ended problems.
- Put the cognitive lift on students—not teachers to help learners construct and create meaning.

- Connect students to authentic audiences of experts, community members, and peers to learn from, present their work, and build meaningful relationships.
- Prioritize the most critical and overarching components of the CCSS, NGSS, SAT, and other college-ready standards.
- Incorporate culturally responsive pedagogy to support students in becoming independent learners.
- 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 Undated January 4 2021 3:14 nm

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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.

 $\ensuremath{\textit{But now}}$, they are hungry for the loud tables, full of messy students

The pool was excited by the crowds of swimming students.

 ${\it Now},$ 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

OUT OF A CRISIS: THE VOICES OF OUR STUDENT

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, 2021, 3:14 p.m.



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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?

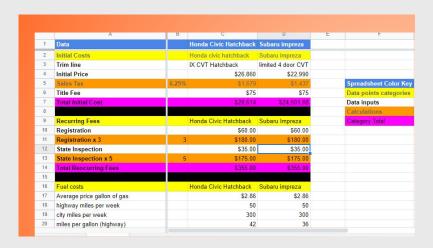
Creative Artifact

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



Izayah Rivera

You Auto Know



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.



Isaiah Acevedo The Found Project



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.



Kenneth Daviau My P.O.V: The Personal Statement

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.





Spring point

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
- **Description** Build college and career readiness

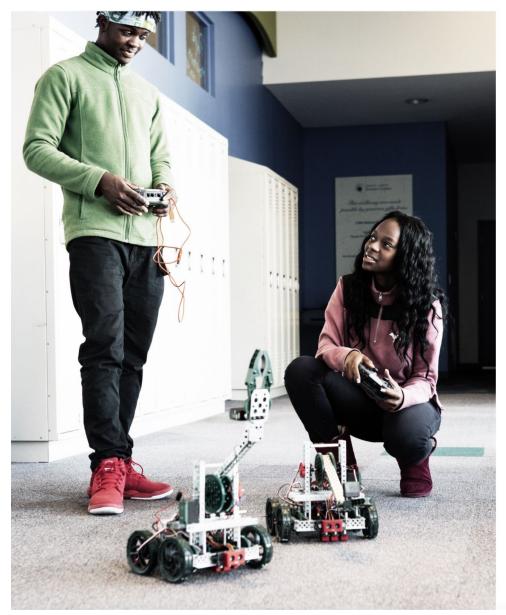
We Need To...

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.





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 TU

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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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).