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2022

Travel Agent vs. Tour Guide: A Passport to Student Engagement

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Recommended Citation

Greer, Alexis; Johnson, Demia; Peace, Jenee; and Scruggs, Christopher, "Travel Agent vs. Tour Guide: A Passport to Student Engagement" (2022). *Instructional Modules for Professional learning Responding to Opportunities and Valuing Educators (IMPROVE)*. 39.

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About this Professional Learning Module

Team Members: Demia Johnson, Jeneé Peace, Chris Scruggs, Alexis Greer

PLM Title: Travel Agent vs. Tour Guide: A Passport to Student Engagement

PLM Hours: May take 4 hours

PLM Link: <https://sites.google.com/rssed.org/passporttoengagement/home>

Description: The purpose of this professional learning module is to provide K-12 teachers with highly effective strategies to engage all students in learning in a post-COVID-19 learning environment. As participants travel through the PLM, they will be responsible for completing Passport Activities in their “Passport Book.” Upon completion of the PLM, participants will submit the link to their completed passport book on the final assessment. Throughout the module, participants will be introduced to rigorous curriculum design components. As the module continues, participants will take a deeper look into engaging and relevant teaching strategies and creating authentic performance assessments. Next, participants will learn one high-yield strategy for each component of the 5 to Thrive model. This module should be completed individually, first. Then, for professional learning communities or teams, the module can be utilized for professional development. Also, the module should be completed in the order it is listed on the Navigation menu (i.e. Complete Destination 1 before you complete Destination 2). The module should take approximately four hours to complete. Once participants have travelled to each “destination,” participants should complete the “Wrap Up Activities” and “Assessment.” Upon successful completion of the assessment, a certificate will be sent to participants via email. For further information, participants can consult the “Resources” page.

Subjects: rigorous curriculum design, 5 to thrive, high yield instructional strategies, G.R.A.S.P.S., relevant and engaging teaching strategies, units of study

Terms of Use: The learning cycle featured in this project is based on the STAR Legacy Cycle developed by the IRIS Center (2013;<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>) and based on the work of Dr. John Branford and colleagues (National Research Council, 2000).

About the Authors

Alexis Greer

This is my 10th year in education and I am currently a high school instructional coach. Originally from Dallas, TX., I've obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Livingstone College and a Master of Business Administration from Winston-Salem State University. I am currently a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction candidate at Gardner-Webb University. My strong business education and experiences in corporate America have led me to teach marketing, entrepreneurship, and design thinking during my time in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy singing, acting, shopping, and am an avid craft-a-holic that loves a starter kit for almost anything.

Demia Johnson

Hello all! My name is Demia Johnson. My love of learning and seeing the growth of young people led me to 18 years as a middle school English Language Arts teacher. I completed a bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T State University, and a master's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. I am currently enrolled in the Educational Doctorate at Gardner-Webb University.

Jeneé Peace

My name is Jeneé Peace and I took an unconventional route to get where I am today. I am currently an Assistant Principal, but I didn't start out that way. Initially, I was a NC Teaching Fellow and I graduated from NC State University in 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree in secondary English Education. I attended NCCU School of Law and graduated in 2015. While in law school, I accepted and unacknowledged my calling to educate! So, in Fall 2015, I began teaching at one of my local high schools! In 2021, I received my masters in educational leadership from Queens University at Charlotte. I am currently working on my Doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Gardner-Webb University. In all that I do, I aim to make my daughter and the rest of my family proud! I hope this work informs, helps educators improve, and makes people proud!

Christopher Scruggs

My name is Chris Scruggs. This year is my 7th year of teaching. I am originally from Texas. I grew up in a family of farmers (cattle and corn) in the small community of Pursley, TX. I graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. I obtained my Master's in Art Teaching with Honors from Texas Woman's University. I am currently working on my Doctorate of Curriculum and Instruction (Ed.D.) with Gardner-Webb University. I was an assistant teacher at TWU teaching teacher's how to teach art for two years. I had my own art business in landscape painting, screen printing and photography for five years. I have taught art from K-12 for five years in North Carolina. My wife and I recently celebrated our 25th anniversary. Our little boy officially started 2nd grade in the fall.

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