

APPENDIX V – 136



Personal Cultural Identity: ELA and OMA – Day 1

Evaluation Summary

Participants were asked to evaluate each session, assessing whether the session met the stated objective/statement using a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating “not at all” and 5 indicating “to a great extent.” In addition, they were encouraged to make comments. When rating the eight objectives/statements regarding the day-long session, all responses averaged 4.1 or better.

- The objectives/statements which received low ratings by both groups were in response to “**After both sessions, I understand how to use the arts to teach ELA and am more comfortable using that knowledge in my lessons**” with an average rating of 4.1 for AIS/TAs and 4.2 for Teachers, and “**I explored the arts as a sign system perspective**”, with an average rating of 4.2 for both groups.
- The highest average rating for AIS/TA (4.4) was in response to the objective/statement “**I discovered ways to draw on children's personal cultural identities through the arts and classroom engagements.**”
- The highest average rating for Teachers (4.5) was in response to the objective/statement “**Throughout the day, I saw intercultural and culturally relevant strategies that will help me develop meaningful lessons for all of my students.**”
- For the objective/statement, “**I discovered ways to draw on children's personal cultural identities through the arts and classroom engagements**”, AIS/TAs rated it slightly higher (4.4 vs. 4.3).
- For the remaining six objectives/statements, teachers rated each of them higher than the AIS/TAs.
- The largest discrepancy between the two groups was for the objective/statement “**Throughout the day, I saw intercultural and culturally relevant strategies that will help me develop meaningful lessons for all of my students**”, with Teachers giving an average rating of 4.5 and AIS/TAs an average rating of 4.1

Common themes and points arose from the comments:

- ✍ Overall, the session was very positively received; with many comments about how much the participants had learned.
- ✍ Information from Kathy Short was considered interesting and valuable. Some stated that the PowerPoint was hard to read and others requested copies of the PPT and a handout of resources/books.

- ✍ While many participants made reference to all that they learned about connecting the arts with the ELA standards, a handful of participants didn't see a connection, or wanted more specifics about connecting to the standards.
- ✍ Some participants had questions about how to take the opera music lesson to younger students.
- ✍ Some participants commented that there was too much sitting and not enough movement and interaction.

Summary of Ratings

	AIS/TA	Teachers
I explored the arts as a sign system perspective.	4.2	4.2
I developed a conceptual understanding of culture.	4.1	4.4
I gained an understanding/appreciation of my own personal cultural identity.	4.0	4.3
I explored my own personal cultural identity.	4.1	4.3
I discovered ways to draw on children's personal cultural identities through the arts and classroom engagements.	4.4	4.3
During the afternoon session with the Opera Team, I learned how to use music to draw on students' personal cultural identity and to help them understand ELA standards.	4.1	4.4
After both sessions, I understand how to use the arts to teach ELA and am more comfortable using that knowledge in my lessons.	4.1	4.2
Throughout the day, I saw intercultural and culturally relevant strategies that will help me develop meaningful lessons for all of my students.	4.1	4.5

Comments code:

Blue – teaching artists and ER AIS

Red – classroom teachers

Comments

- 1. I explored the arts as a sign system perspective.**
 - 2. I developed a conceptual understanding of culture.**
 - 3. I gained an understanding/appreciation of my own personal cultural identity**
 - 4. I explored my own personal cultural identity.**
 - 5. I discovered ways to draw on children's personal cultural identities through the arts and classroom engagements.**
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- * Would like more information/history on semiotics...expand on previous Kathy Short PD. Wish we did a gallery walk/viewed journey illustrations by all IDeA participants.
 - * Really enjoyed combining what we learned with Kathy and exploring an OMA art form. The opera team was awesome! Great to see other AIS/teaching artists teach and how they engage with students. It was great!
 - * Good strategies to prompt students to connect to life experience.
 - * I love using the concept of the uniqueness of sign systems. It reinforces my beliefs about arts integration.
 - * Look forward to adapting this in some way in my own classes. Look at the bigger topic needs to be kept in mind.
 - * Less talking/lecture, more doing, more questions regarding: global perspectives versus multicultural; too much repetition from previous sessions.
 - * Would like more hands-on activities!
 - * Although I understand that the arts sign and its understanding is beneficial, I'm not exactly sure how to implement this aspect into the art form that I teach.
 - * Brilliant presentations! All day long!!!
 - * I enjoyed Kathy's lecture on using the arts as a sign system. Her depth of knowledge is fantastic and reinforced my views of culture as being a design of living. I would have enjoyed it more had been a bit more interactive.
 - * I enjoyed creating the map of my cultural identity. It gave me a chance to visually represent myself with a sign system.
 - * I really enjoyed the mapping activity. It would be helpful to have a copy of the PPT – it was difficult to take notes rapidly enough. I felt rushed – not enough time to explore my thoughts and feelings. The arts-based opera lesson was much stronger/went deeper because of the emotional connections. I did love the forced journey lesson examples. If I was still in the classroom as a teacher, I would definitely incorporate this lesson/theme.
 - * Dr. Short is wonderful and has a lot of knowledge that I gain from her every session!

- * Awesome stuff!
- * Much was the same, but the new items were valuable. Way too much sitting.
- * Dr. Short is always interesting! I love the fine differences in definitions.
- * Many of the informational topics and slides from the Power Point were a repetition of the two previous trainings that we attend with Dr. Short throughout the school year. I would have really enjoyed attending a new training or the choral music workshop instead.
- * There was a perfect balance of lecture-style and group discussion learning. It's clear that Dr. Short has spent a ton of time on this because she explains sign systems so eloquently.
- * Great workshop! Looking forward to the next two days!
- * Great information but overwhelming on "where to start?" and how to apply with Kinder. I have ideas but would love to collaborate with other Kinder teachers on ways to incorporate new ideas.
- * I have so much more to learn. However, I have many notes and new ideas from today's session. I can't wait to start planning how I'm going to use these with my students next year!
- * I marked 3 as a neutral answer as I feel I already had a good feeling about my personal cultural identity and today's activities didn't change it much.
- * Difficult to see Power Point from back. Would like titles of books she was referencing on our journeys and types of maps.
- * Always enjoy listening to Kathy but the Power Point was really hard to see and hear. Chairs made it very noisy. Need to relate more to ECE teachers too.
- * Very clear presentation and connections to school age children.
- * Thinking how to modify for first grade level, without a full time AIS to help.
- * I would really like to see the lesson plan for the journeys – refugees unit where they are placed in countries with item/boxes, etc. I appreciated Dr. Short's clarifying and adding a few things in the afternoon.
- * I feel like it is so important for our students to know that their cultural identifies are valued and important in our classrooms. This day gave me ideas on how to draw that our and honor it more intentionally.
- * I answered these questions relecting on all morning. Dr. Short's lecture was informative, but I found myself drifting off thinking about other things, because there wasn't enough engagement.
- * I struggled with understanding the concept of cultural, but enjoyed the insight that cultura is what influences the way I look at the world... And it includes a lot!
- * I enjoyed Kathy's presentation. She really explained the importance of personal cultural identity and how it connects with students.
- * Thank you for an honest, open, and vulnerable exploration of culture through the arts. I'm so excited to bring this into the classroom!
- * Love text definition. Love quote kids who struggle are learning with promise.
- * I really enjoyed learning about the sign systems, and will try to use them more.

- * Discussion and map making are very useful lessons for 4th5th graders. How to deliver the same kinds of lessons to younger graders effectively without overwhelmingly understanding their cultures.
- * Lots of sitting and listening.
- * Liked the notion of thinking of the big idea behind the concept.
- * I think if there was more time, my scores would be higher. Due to time restraints, we were unable to fully dig into much of the content.
- * I really gained priceless knowledge from Dr. Kathy Short in regards to sign systems.
- * Slideshow in the beginning was rather dry. Everything else was engaging!
- * As multicultural pedagogy is part of our USP it was nice to find new ways to works with students involving personal culture.
- * A unique strategy to teach vocabulary and incorporate culture.
- * Can't wait for Tuesday and Wednesday!
- * I enjoyed learning today about sign systems. Dr. Short is clearly passionate about sign systems and explained it in a way that made sense. Her enthusiasm is inspiring to me. She has good ideas on how to incorporate sign systems in the classroom.
- * I liked the books that talked about culture identity. The opera singers were amazing!
- * I was intrigued by the sign system perspective and will be exploring it further.
- * This was a wonderful class. It was engaging and got me thinking about to integrate the arts in my teaching.
- * Great introduction and examples. The presentations were relevant and demonstrated the "Big Idea".
- * I'm really excited about the backpacks Dr. Short talked about. I would love to have a list of the books she sued. I think it would be wonderful to try and create some of those backpacks.
- * I was given information. Then, I engaged in a bit of conversation followed by a pen and paper activity.
- * Having a PowerPoint printed out.
- * Would like specific examples/lesson ideas on a handout to expand options.
- * The best way to assess engagement in an adult setting is to count the number of people looking at their phones being talked at or read to is NOT fostering engagement and/or active thinking. It is not OMA. Perhaps, instead of telling so many examples, have participants brainstorm possible lesson ideas which embody cultural identity as a focus, have the group share ideas, and offer your unique expertise to help shape THOSE ideas into lesson we can take back to the classroom.

Comments

During the afternoon session with the Opera Team, I learned how to use music to draw on students' personal cultural identity and to help them understand ELA standards.

- * Great action learning.
- * This was a powerful, emotional activity. I think it would lend itself well to being an introductory lesson to a poetry or narrative writing prompt.
- * Kim and Juan are great presenters. I love how they get us to interact.
- * It was nice to hear how music affects a person and what is going on in their personal culture.
- * Juan and Kim's performance was a fabulous change of pace. Watching them perform a piece that was meaningful to them made the experience moving and authentic.
- * Thank you!
- * This was very beneficial since my group was very open to discussing various methods to help students.
- * Nice idea to have students bring in a song of their cultural identity. Also good way to integrate listening and responding to music, having students list descriptive words.
- * Didn't connect with ELA standards enough.
- * Very engaging!
- * Good personal relating discussion can come from this.
- * How to adapt for younger students.
- * Very engaging presentation, activities, and conversation.
- * I feel challenged (in a positive way) when I comes to putting the OMA model in place in my 30 intervention groups.
- * I have used favorite books etc. before – the idea of favorite music as a representation of identify is great.
- * I enjoyed doing the activities with adults.
- * I still lack specific examples of ways to incorporate for ELA. I understand what personal cultural identity (is).
- * Great team.
- * Relate personal experiences
- * I have some ideas to use in my teaching, but am still unsure how to connect to CCS.
- * I love that a single song can tell so much about a persona's story; thank you for showing us that!
- * Interactions, collaborations, and sharing made me understand more about the theme. Also modeling and practicing were very helpful to comprehend the whole idea.

- * I love that the focus was on students reflecting on and creating their own identities!
- * It was fun.
- * Not sure how it will apply to Kinders.
- * Great sharing in our team.
- * Sharing music was very meaningful and built connections within the groups very quickly. This could be tweaked for Kinder. I love it.
- * Yes, through songs, sharing with our peers, - thinking beyond the surface.
- * I enjoyed this activity!
- * Would like more examples of how to incorporate with early primary students.
- * ELA/ELL standards should have been attached to activities.
- * ELA standards needed to be tied I better or mentioned.
- * Would love to do this with my ELLs to connect they music of their home cultures.
- * With older students.
- * Awesome team work!

Comments

After both sessions, I understand how to use the arts to teach ELA and am more comfortable using that knowledge in my lessons.

- * I appreciated the discussion of the “big ideas” – conceptual frameworks for driving instruction.
- * I can see how these strategies can help. I will try to see how to implement them with my art form, find the “Big Idea.”
- * Most of the ideas I gained were ones from Dr. Short’s presentation back in January. Lots of review.
- * Always better ways to learn!
- * I believe that today’s discussion helped me.
- * Compiling vocab lists and using definitions is so important.
- * Giving students more options in ways to communicate opens up a world of more in-depth sharing.
- * I can’ wait to incorporate more arts into my lessons.
- * Know how to implement strategies to teach students about culture.
- * I can see how to connect literature, but am not yet comfortable with music.
- * I have a great knowledge now on how to teach ELA and art.
- * Thanks to opera team, yes. I will be able to use the arts in my ELA teaching.

- * May need to put some safeguards or caveats on what 5th graders bring for class assignment or ways to describe. I have to think more about this.
- * I am getting better and more comfortable with this.
- * I think some of today's work would go well with writing personal narratives.
- * Understand how to use, but getting materials and principal on board.
- * Not an "art" person. Not comfortable enough to be a big risk taker.
- * I want to find more purposeful and meaningful ideas to use with my students.
- * I look forward to incorporating lessons next school year.

Comments

Throughout the day, I saw intercultural and culturally relevant strategies that will help me develop meaningful lessons for all of my students.

- * Yes. I appreciated the discussion on oversimplifying culture through universalizing or exoticizing culture within lessons. The family story backpacks are a great idea.
- * The more I learn and practice techniques regarding "culturally relevant", the better I become at seeing how it works.
- * Again, much of the cultural relevant strategies were review for me. As a teaching artist, in schools that have no AIS, it is slightly more challenging to design curriculum to such a depth.
- * Again, brilliant!
- * My discussion with my graph helped with this.
- * Only if we purposively start with the pupil's cultural background as the starting point to planning lessons rather than the standards. Hard to do with ELD kids who don't speak English, and such a diverse population.
- * Anti-bias Framework is very helpful. Would like to see the source cited on the handout.
- * Loved the active listening in small groups.
- * Great interactive activities.
- * I enjoyed this session!
- * Thank you for being so clear on how to be relevant and respectful.
- * I really enjoyed the identity map that we did. I can't wait to see who my 3rd graders will chose.
- * I feel fortunate to teach at a multicultural school.
- * I would like to use the lesson, but may need more strategies to connect to personal culture.
- * Not only using strategies for ELA, but also extending the strategies to social studies (w/fun ways).
- * I liked the "Pink Refrigerator" and the journey map activity especially.

- * Enjoyed the backpack at day's end ... for family participation.
- * Great ideas!
- * Really appreciated this afternoon. Classroom activities with word choice, descriptive language, etc. More info. on family story backpacks, please! Art backpack ideas>
- * Great ideas!
- * Like idea of heart map.
- * Working with Kathy before or writing curriculum gave me an insight to what will be coming down the way but trying to figure out truly meaningful work to connect with students.

Additional Thoughts/Comments/Suggestions/Questions

- * Really enjoyed sharing stories and music with others.
- * Extremely well planned and informative. Thank you!
- * There were lots of anecdotes about what Dr. Short has done with her students in the past. I would have liked more hands-on, accessible ideas about what lessons I could take back to the classroom and use next school year.
- * A little too much sitting. Group work was good. There were a few periods of long lecture! A bit too long!
- * Once again, way too much sitting. But this has been said many times.
- * I loved the music activity. It was an emotionally charged activity. It was interesting that most of us had chosen pieces that were full of emotion, contemplative. I think this less was deeper because it came from deep person emotion. I was left satisfied at the end.
The classroom teachers who sat with me from 3 schools were bored by Kathy Short's presentation – they kept saying this is not OMA like. Too much talking, not enough discussion and doing. I think this may be because they get professional development on ELA/culture more frequently than OMA faculty/staff do.
- * Lecture style became exhausting. Would appreciate breaking it up just a bit – even if you just have people rotate and trade seats to mingle and stretch our legs.
- * Brain breaks during long sessions would help a ton. Sitting for long times in hard chairs is difficult.
- * I enjoyed much of today's presentations. My favorite part was Juan and Kim's because they had us up and moving. I was a little sad to have missed Nicole's presentation however, Melissa's was interest but non-interactive.
- * Wish I had more time with the group.
- * Enjoyed the group I was in!
- * While I felt Dr. Short's sessions were very informative and meaningful, I felt that for me as an AIS, it was a little redundant. Perhaps there could've been two separate sessions for OA staff to

continue the work they did in Jan/Feb while the classroom teachers had the sessions with Dr. Short. Then we couldn't come together for the collaborative session.

- * Opera: Good small group work and modeling. Good tie to individuals.
- * General comment: Do not write in red on yellow!! Hard to read from a distance. Appreciate the planning/organization.
- * Thank you! I learned a lot!
- * Too much sitting.
- * Would have appreciated time to ask questions. For example, if young kids bring a song that they love - - chances are it will be inappropriate. What would you do in that situation or how would you avoid it altogether?
- * Very informative with purposeful hands on activities and related conversation.
- * I love the idea of distinct/connections rather than same/different.
- * Loved the session where we shared personal music, and hearing everyone's personal stories with their music.
- * I need specific ways of how to incorporate this in my everyday teaching.
- * Have we ever thought of running grade specific OM classes? How neat would it be to work with artist and other grade specific teachers to pull ideas and resources that could be applied.
- * Great day – thanks you.
- * Sitting too long. Signage to Little Theatre not visible enough.
- * Sitting way too long.
- * I like having movement/dance at the beginning.
- * Showed ways to maybe use cultural books in schools.
- * A really great day – thank you.
- * Thank you.
- * I truly enjoyed the music listening and sharing part of today. It really was eye opening and almost therapeutic.
- * I'm excited for tomorrow!
- * Love, love, love backpack idea
- * Very, very good!
- * I loved making connections to the science/S.S. I already do!
- * The end of day became very long. Even though it was the great lecture, it got too overwhelming.
- * Can TUSD supple classes with Family Book Bags?
- * Break up the song presentations. A short AM/PM break would be nice.

- * More movement during the lectures would be wonderful. We were able to move during the first session, but the rest of the day seemed to drag.
- * Thank you!
- * The training has been great in teaching us new strategies to implement in our classrooms to help students be successful every day.
- * Great lesson, but there wasn't as much connection to CCS as I was hoping.
- * Loved the read-aloud "The Pink Refrigerator". "My Map Book" is a great find as well. Thanks! Sharing our songs was a great activity too.