



BEYOND Insights Fall Semester 2018

Audience

BEYOND Insights 2018 participants included the following:

- 2 program leaders from Lansing School District
- 55 student participants
- 2 program leaders from the Writing Center
- 25 MSU Faculty, Graduate, and Undergraduate Student Mentors

Participants are 6th grade students, residents of Lansing, MI, and attend Lansing Public Schools. BEYOND Insights is a collaboration with the MSU College of Arts & Letters, including The Writing Center, the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA), and the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Language and Media Lab (LMC). The Writing Center administered, supervised, and led the program.



Funding

BEYOND Insights is funded by the MSU College of Arts and Letters. Funding pays for supplies, snacks, and expenses associated with technology.

Objectives

BEYOND Insights is designed as a series of fun and stimulating Friday workshops that engage 6th grade Lansing Public Schools students in a wide range of activities surrounding creativity, composing, culture, and the arts & humanities.¹ Students are recruited to participate in Beyond Insights based on nominations from their classroom teachers and engage in Insights curriculum from grades three to six. During the fall semester, students practice composing in a variety of ways, including storytelling and videomaking. Over the span of two-five week facilitated workshops, students work in small groups to learn what it means to collaborate and negotiate through composing a video together.

Our goal is to increase youth participation in arts and culturally-relevant programming. BEYOND Insights was made in part to bring the arts back to students, since most art programs have been cut from grade school curriculum in the Lansing School Districts. Additionally, students think about what kinds of learners they are and reflect on their composing processes. Providing this opportunity for participants allows students to experience a college campus, exposes them to the arts, and stimulates a lifelong love for learning, community, collaboration, and cultural difference.

Outcomes

Student Participant Feedback: Students responded that they enjoyed the chance to learn and compose in a variety of ways. They also indicated that they really enjoyed the opportunity to work with technology (iPads and video editing software) to make group video projects – the culmination of their time with BEYOND Insights. Most students noted the difficulty and challenges of working together. Participants all indicated that they enjoyed exploring campus and the pizza lunch.

At the end of BEYOND Insights, students were given a flash drive that contained their group's video.

Contact hours between college mentors and student participants totaled over 11,000.

Additional Significant Information

- The digital composing project gives students a safe space/place to develop the critical thinking skills needed for active and involved citizens, including working across difference.
- The program received high evaluations from participants (including students and teachers), which bodes well for future events and recruitment.
- This project was developed in response to our land-grant mission, as part of the College of Arts & Letters outreach, as part as the Writing Center Outreach mission, and as a response to community need for the arts.
- Implemented in Spring 2018, the project now provides a preview for incoming students in "Pre-BEYOND Insights." The preview is designed to orient participants to the kinds of learning they will do in the Fall, including working with technology, storytelling, and collaboration.

Contact Information

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¹ <https://cal.msu.edu/news/beyond-insights/>