

Leaving Your Own Island:

The Medals and Missions of Writing Original Research Based Curriculum



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All In: When Theory Meets Practice in School Reform
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Are you smarter than a 5th grader?

- Flip over the paper on your desk and try answering as many questions as possible in ***one minute.***



Partner-up

- Now find a partner.
- Answer as many questions as possible. The team with the most correct answers will get a prize.



Last time!

- Make a group of four and try one more time!



Reflection

Distributive Leadership

- Focus on collaboration and shared purpose for all members of the society
- Shared leadership and work regardless of position



Theory of Practice

Distributed Leadership (Hargreaves and Fink, 2005)

- Focus on collaboration and shared purpose for all members of the society
- Shared leadership and work regardless of position



Context

- Developing an original curriculum
 - New Social Studies Standards, *Reading Like a Historian*, *New Visions*, *History Alive*, AP, APPR, Social Studies Inquiries Toolkit, ENL and SPED ED as main resources
- Two teacher leaders
 - Curriculum development, NYS Social Studies Inquiries Toolkit IB and AP
- Extensive paid and unpaid PD
- Consultants



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Context

How it works:

- Paid time- PD Summer time and Saturdays
- In school-Collaborative Planning Time or **CPT**
 - **Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate!**
 - **Willingness** to try something new
 - **Reflect**, re-think, question and perhaps abandon past practices
 - Use evidence and **data to drive decisions**
 - **Common** units, common assessments, common lessons using a common template through Google
 - **Open to feedback**- learning walks and *Medals and Mission* feedback
 - **Curriculum coach (TL)**- co-teach, coaching cycles, learning walks, lead CPT, secure time for curriculum writing

Role of the University

The University of Rochester has provided extensive support developing the curriculum:

- Three consultants with expertise in:
 - UbD curriculum development
 - Social Studies education
 - Development of Regents examinations at the state level
- Hundreds of hours for curriculum development
- Coaching the coaches
- Securing professional development and resources
- Frequent feedback on units and lessons

Evolution of the Initiative

Year 1-Curriculum and Design

- Writing Stage 1 and 2 of UbD units
- Learning Targets
- Managing the Active Classroom (MAC)

Year 2-Assessment

- Common assessments across curriculum areas (CFAs)
- Curriculum embedded performance tasks

Year 3-Deliberate Practice

- Engagement
- Targeted Interventions
- Common lesson template

What We've Noticed

Aha moments!



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Discussion and Take Aways:

I am excited to try...
One challenge I foresee...
One question I have is...