



BEYOND Insights Fall Semester 2017

Audience

BEYOND Insights 2017 participants included the following:

- 1 program leader
- 60 student participants
- 20 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 Indigenous Graduate Student Collective, the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA), and the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities Language and Media Lab. The Writing Center administered, supervised, and led the program.



Funding

BEYOND Insights was 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 Over two five-week programs, students practice composing in a variety of ways, including storytelling and videomaking. Students also work in small groups and learn about what it means to negotiate and work in groups to compose something together.

Our goal is to increase youth participation in the 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, 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. Participants all indicated that they enjoyed exploring campus and the pizza lunch.

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

Contact hours between college mentors and student participants totaled over 8,000.

Additional Significant Information

- The Writing Center recently (2015) took over BEYOND Insights organization and administration from the Associate Dean for Outreach/Community Engagement in the College of Arts & Letters.
- The revised program received high evaluations from participants (including students and teachers), which bodes well for future events and recruitment.
- This project gives students a safe space/place to develop the critical thinking skills needed for active and involved citizens.
- This project was developed in response to our land-grant mission, as part of the College of Arts & Letters outreach, and as a response to community need for the arts.

Contact Information

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