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Project Overview

"Entre los individuos, como entre las naciones, el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz"—Benito Juárez

"Entre los individuos, como entre las naciones, el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz", meaning "Among individuals, as among nations, respect for the rights of others is peace." A portion of this motto in bold is inscribed on the coat of arms of Oaxaca, however as we learned

during our study abroad often Indigenous history, language and culture are often not being respected or prioritized by the government and it's many of its citizens.



This trip demonstrated the need for documentation and conservation of indigenous languages and cultural products and practices. It also gave us the opportunity to meet exceptional scholars and teachers and community members who were working towards this goal of preserving and honoring diverse cultures.



Featured here is my first attempt at creating a codex. It takes awhile to learn to think in picture images, so I began by using actual photos to tell my story. I chose glyph stamps to help me express myself. I tried writing in Nahuatl as well. This wasn't a pure codex, because it used photos and some written language.



Professor Ron Spores. The

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Switching gears away from the enchanting study of codices, the bulk of my work in Oaxaca was in regards to compiling materials to create unit/lesson plans for the interdisciplinary instruction of Day of the Dead. This collection of work is documented in various attachments. There are five power points and a master resource list: Interdisciplinary DOD (Day of Dead), What is Day of the Dead?, What is an *ofrenda*?, What are the various types of *ofrendas*?, The Six Thinking Hats, and a Resource list.

As stated in my original project plan, I feel that there are many excellent resources already in existence in regards to Day of the Dead curriculum materials. I believe that many teachers do not teach the cultural practice because they are concerned with complaints regarding the teaching of religious practices in the classroom. Originally I proposed writing a position paper in defense of including Day of the Dead in classroom instruction, however after collaborating with Master Teacher Ron Lancaster, I decided to create a power point to achieve this objective instead instead. The power point demonstrates how to use DeBono's Six Thinking Hats, an exercise in decision making and critical thinking. Keeping with the Day of the Dead theme all of the "hats" are portrayed as a "la Catrina" of the famous artist José Guadalupe Posada. The power point does not specifically address Day of the Dead. It was left in a generic format so that it could be used at anytime, by any teacher, to develop critical thinking skills. Used in conjunction with the other Day of the Dead materials, it encourages critical thinking and addresses emotional reactions without being dictated by them.

The power point "Interdisciplinary DOD" is to demonstrate the many ways that Day of the Dead (DOD) can be tied to other subject mater. This power point could be assigned as homework and students could chose an independent project in an area that interests them. This could also be used at staff meetings to gain school

wide support in teaching a collaborative unit on Day of the Dead. The three additional power points on *Ofrendas* provide more information regarding cultural products and practices of the *ofrenda* as a Dead of the Dead tradition. Lastly, the resource list is a very comprehensive compilation of books, thematic units, websites, apps and videos related to Day of the Dead.

Instead of creating an additional lesson plan specific to my classroom, I chose to create these instructional materials which could be used at many grade levels and by various disciplines. I teach a non-required subject and thus instructional time and frequency varies greatly from district to district and state to state. I find it more useful to create a collection of instructional resources and materials which can be used in many subject areas across the grade levels. I feel that teachers need to feel confident teaching Day of the Dead and I believe the Six Thinking Hats power point and the *Ofrenda* power point provides that support. Also the resource list identifies materials put out by Harvard, edusitement, Smithsonian Institute, National Endowment for the Humanities, and other highly esteemed establishments, as well as gems in the rough I found searching online. Lastly, teachers simply don't have enough time. I hope that by creating this master resource, it will save other teachers time and thus encourage the inclusion of Day of the Dead in their content area, as well as simplify the process of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Contains:

Project Overview

Codice Lesson

Six Thinking Hats

Interdisciplinary DOD

Ofrendas

Resource List