Navigating Dreamland: Unlocking the Power of Community



Appalachia and Stereotypes: Who defines Appalachia? What is that definition?

(For us, it's really about the evolution of a powerful and topical lesson that uses community resources to teach students how to solve their own problems...and still get to the standards)

In other words, how do we go from Duck Dynasty...









by Joe Manchin



Time Constraints...what's the bottom line?

What do our communities have in common?

Maybe it's the increasing oppression of despair?

or

The Opioid Crisis?

or

Tight knit communities with local resources that can deliver hope and help

What we've learned as teachers about the unit:

We tell our students to be problem-solvers -- show them how it's done. You can't have **hope** unless you have role models. **Empowerment is an essential key to having hope.**

We all are blessed with community resources that will help along the way with the quest -- just jump in that Dreamland pool and start swimming. Your stakeholders want to help and are willing to invest time in your students.

Students crave and need to know more about problems that affect their own lives and they want models they can use to solve them. What's the use of all this learning unless they can put the knowledge to good use?

Empowering students changes their attitudes about their studies, their identities, and their communities

Students can see themselves as adults. Students are introduced to additional career options.

Even for us, it took an outsider's perspective to help us learn about ourselves. Thank you Sam Quinones and Marty Blank

Brief History of the Project

How we got started

We once were an OACHE Roadmap 2005 school

Straight A Grant Encouraged a cross curricular unit in 2015

Staff chose Appalachian Culture and History: Who are We?

Why? No opportunities to explore this in state driven curriculum and we wanted a chance to teach the value of our own distinct history and culture rather than allow students to absorb the media's interpretation of us -- the importance of identity

What we **should** know about ourselves:

Look for positive images...

Family solidarity

Patriotism

Religion

Individualism, Self-Reliance, Pride

Love of place

Neighborliness and Hospitality

Focus of Year 1

History: Demographic shifts and economics, Iron Furnace Industry, Coal Wars/Matewan, genealogy

Science: Homer Hickam's Rocket Boys/October Sky and Moth Man

Math: John Nash: Beautiful Mind (Chaos Theory), stats on demographics

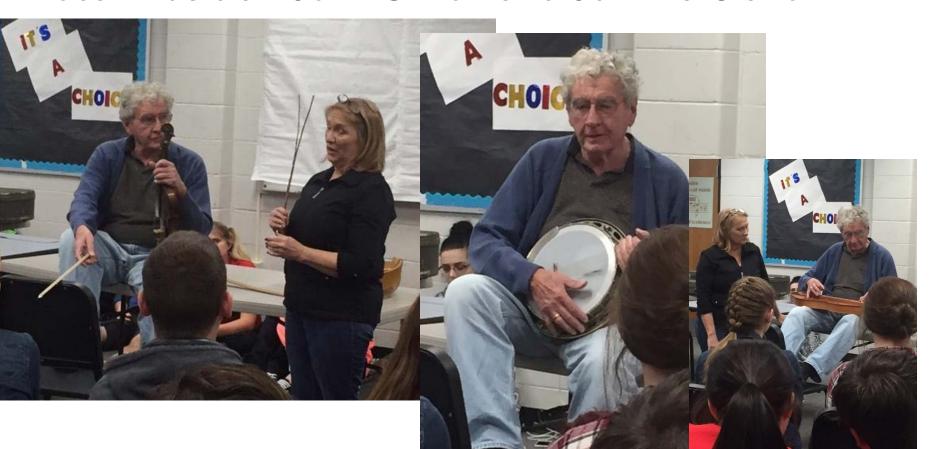
English: Literature by Appalachian writers (Jesse Stuart, *She Walks These Hills,* various women writers from Appalachia)

Music: Appalachian instruments and songs

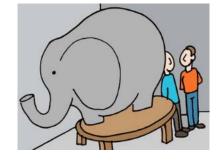


Local history librarian helps students do genealogy research in year 1 of the program

Appalachian Music in Year 1! Local musician John Simon and JoAnne Claxon



Result:



Interesting and insightful, but we never really hit the mark; something was missing. It was more of an historical perspective. It wasn't current -- close enough for our students, and it really didn't address the elephant in the room -- Walmart on the first of the month!

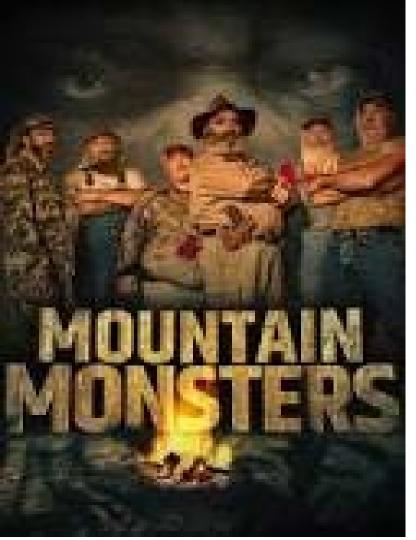
We couldn't reshape or challenge their own assessment of Appalachia without examining the problems that they see daily.

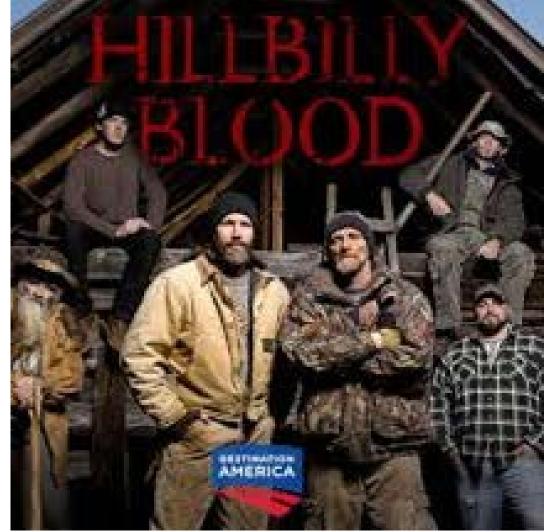
And so...more research!

Contemporary Views. -- what our students see

It isn't pretty...or funny...it moves from absurd to truly revolting

















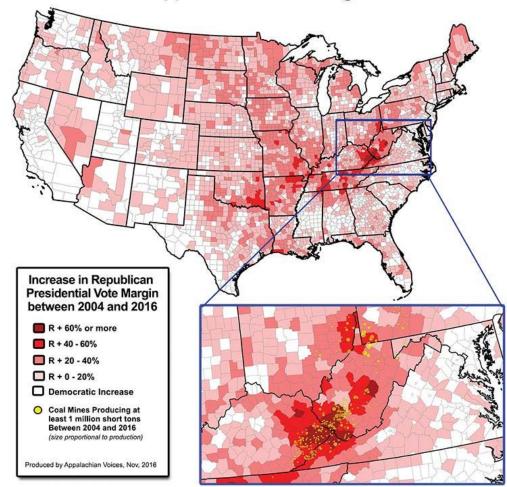


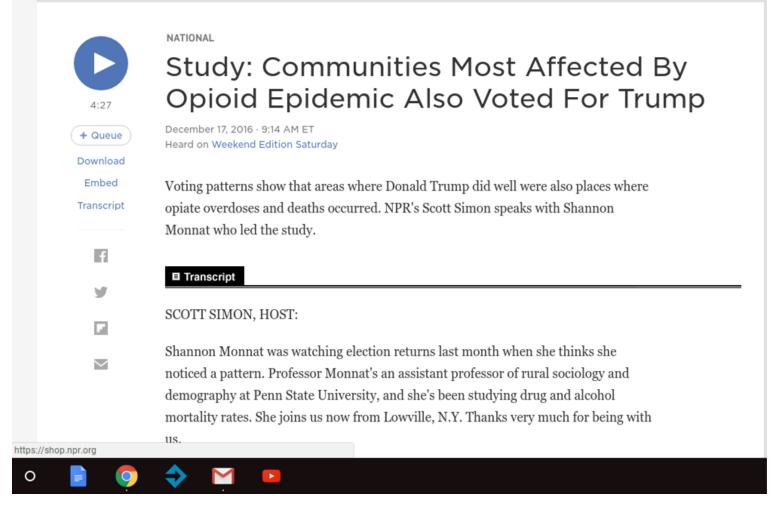
Why the sudden interest in Appalachia?

Post-election attention

Source: http://appvoices.org/2016/ 12/15/trump-energy-coalappalachia/

Between 2004 and 2016, GOP Vote Share Increased Most in Central Appalachia Coal Mining Counties

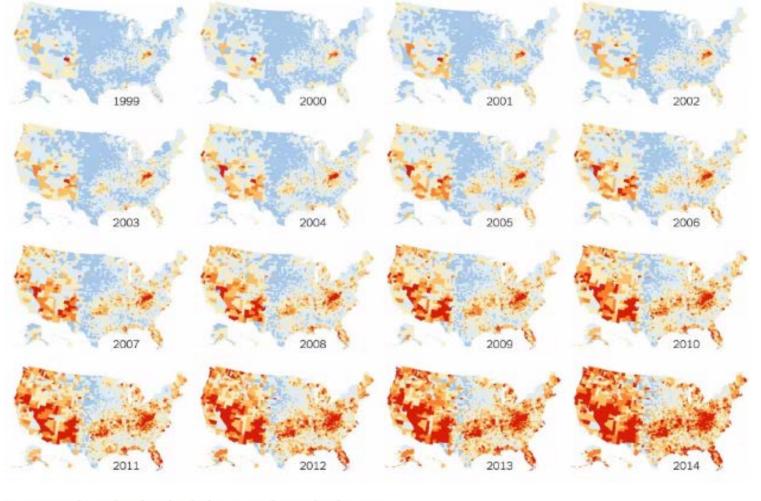




https://www.npr.org/2016/12/17/505965420/study-communities-most-affected-by-opioid-epidemic-also-voted-for-

Have you seen this image before? It may be THE photo to describe the addiction crisis.

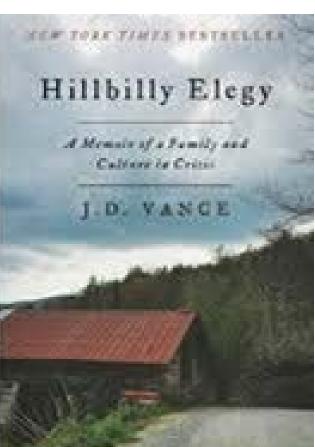




How overdose deaths rippled across the United States. Haeyoun Park and Matthew Bloch/The New York Times

Let the soul searching begin!





Hillbilly Elegy--nice memoir, but offers no solutions, only descriptions. Underlying message -- social darwinism lives: If you are poor and struggling it's your own fault, probably not much hope for you.

Comparison of Traditional Appalachian Culture and Modern Society

<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Modern</u>
Family and Kin	Individualism
Stability	Growth
Continuity	Change
Egalitarianism	Elitism
Commonwealth	Individual wealth
Citizenship	Political apathy

New focus: Appalachian Stereotypes and problems

What does it mean to be Appalachian NOW?

How do we define ourselves NOW?

How does the rest of the country view us NOW?

How does that affect our students' view of themselves NOW?

Who are we NOW?

What are our challenges NOW?

How do we measure success in modern America?

It's easy to compare cars; it's not so easy to measure happiness.

How is that working for Appalachian Communities? (How is that working for America?)

Make America Great Again has a more powerful allure for Appalachia when filtered through this lens.

In summation:

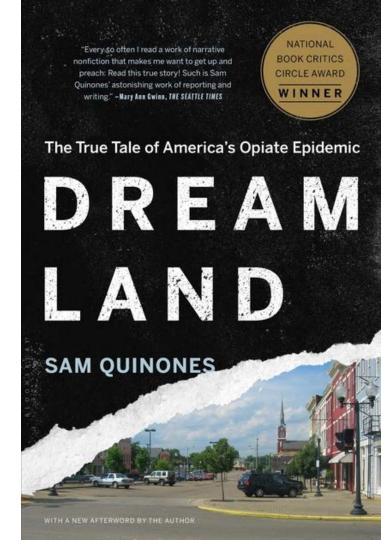
These students, like students everywhere, must make links between what they are reading and their own lives; they, too, are concerned about identity formation, their futures, and where they belong in the world.

Robert Probst

Dreamland -- Eureka!

Described problem and hinted at hopeful solutions

- "Community" -- We began to explore the causes and effects of community.
- Addiction is both a product and a cause of isolation.
- "I'm not an addict. It doesn't affect me." Think AGAIN.
- Collateral damage--ourselves, our students, our schools, our community
- Addiction is EVERYONE'S problem (like peeing in the pool (*Dreamland*)--it touches everyone!), and once you understand the roots of the problem, it humanizes the solutions.









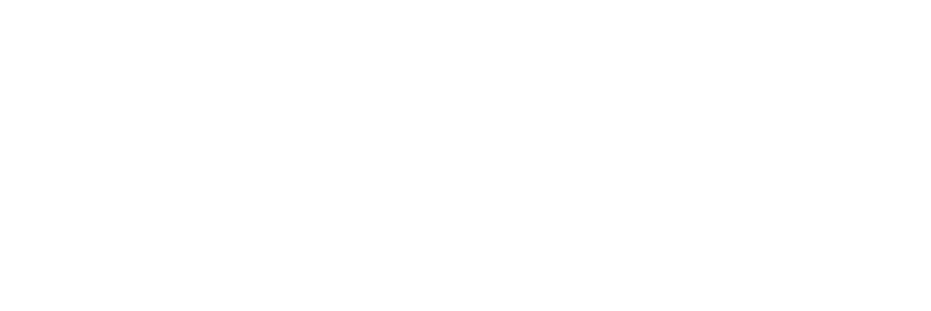








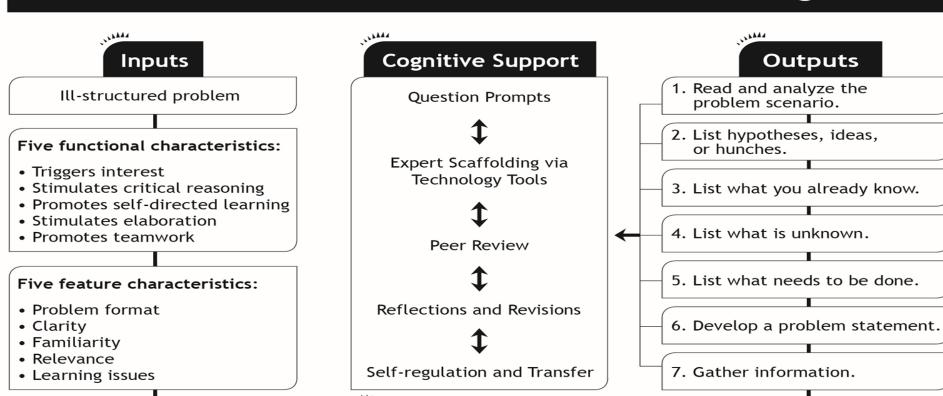




Instructional framework: Problem based learning

Designing Cognitive Scaffolds for Web-based Problem-based Learning

8. Present findings.



Problem-based Learning Model--based on 21st Century Learning Skills & Habits of Mind

Step 1: The Problem (Case Study--reading materials, background, articles, etc.)

Step 2: Define the issue (4-6 sentences, identify the problem)

Step 3: What do you know? (Identify key words from the case study, list significant parts of the problem, explain what you already know that will help you solve the problem)

Step 4: Analyze the case information (determine if based on fact or opinion, infer and explain information that is important to the case solution, but is not explicitly stated in the case)

Problem-based Learning Model (cont'd.)

Step 5: Possible Solutions (gather, organize, and interpret information from multiple sources, analyze and explain the multiple perspectives or solutions within this case, generate alternative solutions)

Step 6: Research Solution (research the knowledge and data you need to support the solution and fill in missing gaps, investigate and draw conclusions about how the preferred solution impacts the world today, analyze and evaluate alternatives)

Step 7: Construct Conclusions (develop a plan/proposal with supporting documentation to convince others of your solution, present your proposal--as a talk, a video, animated video with infographics, etc.)

Problem-based Learning Model (cont'd.)

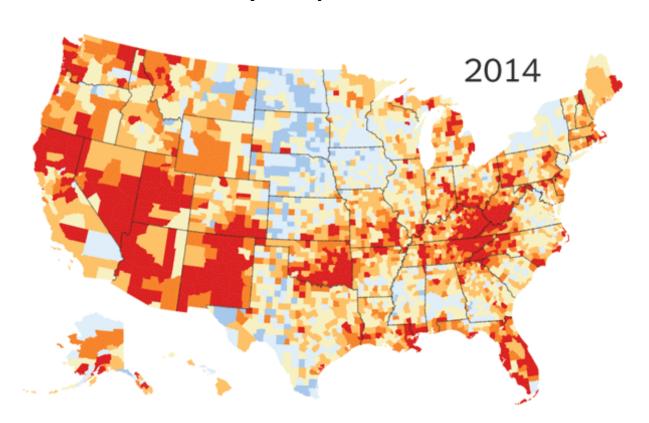
Step 8: Reflection

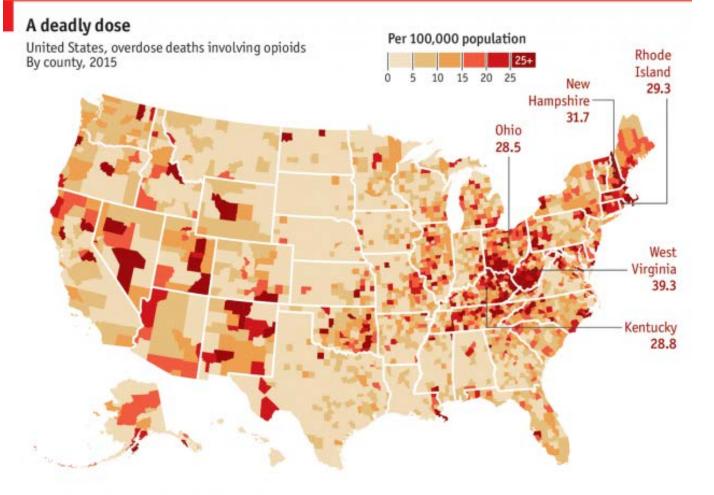
Write a 3-5 paragraph reflection essay including these three parts:

- 1. Include an introduction where you focus directly on explaining what aspect of your experiences you will discuss in the reflection.
- 2. The body of the essay should explain how you have changed or what you have learned. Make certain to explain what things caused you to change.
- 3. In the conclusion of a reflective essay, you should discuss how you have changed and the effect of those changes. You should share how you think the experience will change you in the future.

Step 1: Students researched evidence of the problem from a sterile, statistical analysis

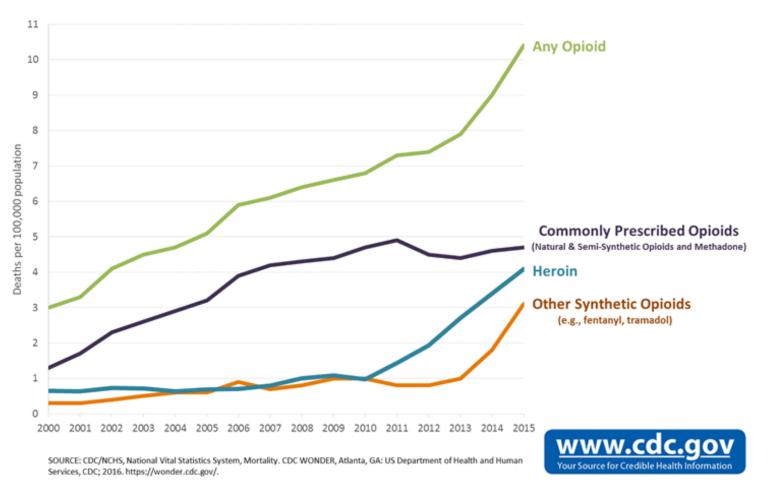
Fatal Drug Overdose U.S. 2002-2014 A 14 year span......





Source: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Overdose Deaths Involving Opioids, United States, 2000-2015



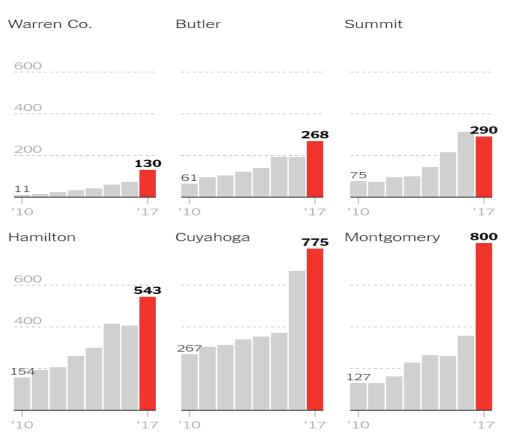
Have drug overdose deaths increased in Ohio cities in the past several years?

-Taylor Rawlins and Emily Sessor

Source: New York Times

https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/06/pshot/opioid-epidemic-drug-overdose-deaths-arrising-faster-than-ever.html?mcubz=0

Drug overdose deaths in six Ohio counties, 2010 to 2017



Totals for 2017 assume that overdose deaths continue at the same rate through the remainder of the year.

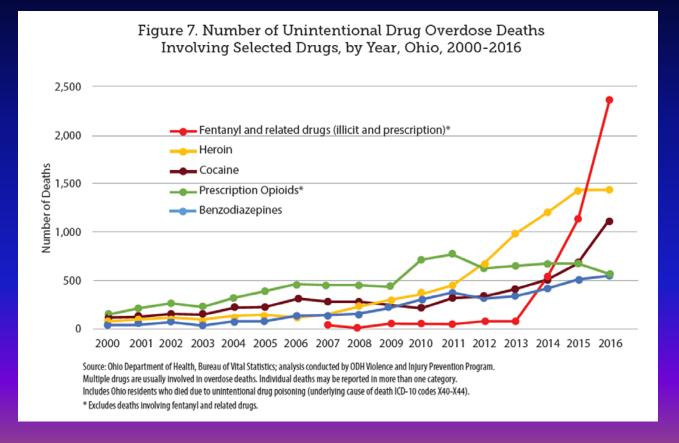
Scioto County has the highest rate of newborns suffering from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (this is more than 8 X higher than the state

average)

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS; ICD-9 779.5) per 1,000 live births in Ohio by county of patient residence. On average, there were 8.8 discharges for NAS per 1,000 live births statewide between 2009 and 2013. Counties with the highest rates of NAS discharges were Scioto (76.0), Lawrence (66.7) and Pike (57.7).



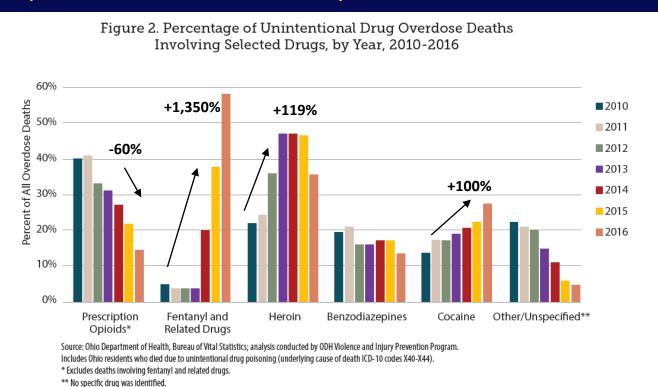
Unintended consequence of <u>Ohio's</u> opioid crackdown...... * Heroin and illicit Fentanyl use and <u>deaths increase</u>



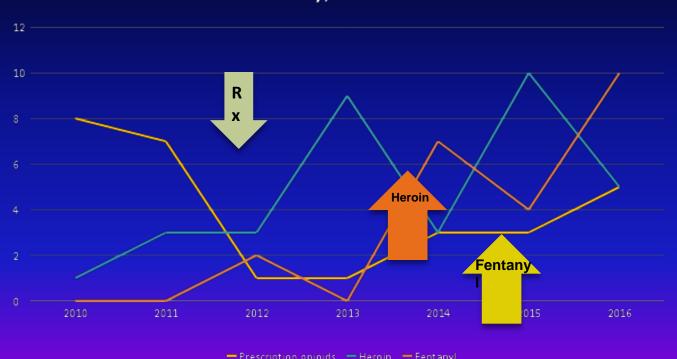
OHIO

Between 2010-2016 Opioid deaths declined about 60%......

• Offset by enormous increases in Fentanyl, Heroin, and Cocaine-related fatalities



Fatal Overdose involving Opioids Scioto County, Ohio 2010-2016



Lots of people want to profit

Synthetic fentanyl is made in illegal labs and used to augment "heroin" or can be pressed into fake "pills." Coming in from China and Mexico.

- * 30-50 times stronger than heroin
- * 50-100 times stronger than morphine Carfentanil is 10,000 times stronger than morphine

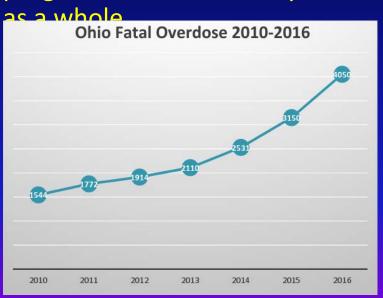
The number of overdose deaths involving heroin remained relatively flat with 1,444 overdose deaths in 2016 compared to 1,424 in 2015 (see Table 1). Figure 1. Number of Fentanyl and Related Drug Deaths and Percentage of Unintentional Overdose Deaths, by Year, Ohio, 2012-2016 4,500 4,000 Carfentanil = 340 3,500 3,000 of Deaths 2,500 503 (4.096)(3.9%)2,000 1,500 1,000 500 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 Fentanyl and Related Drugs (including carfentanil in 2016) Non-Fentanyl and Related Drugs Source: Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics; analysis conducted by ODH Violence and Injury Prevention Program.

3,496% increase in 5 yrs.

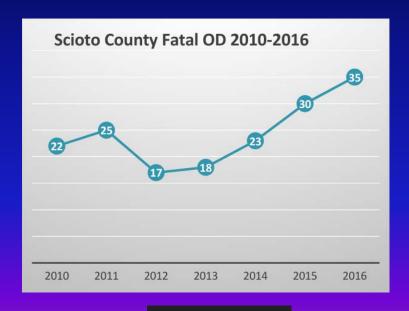
Includes Ohio residents who died due to unintentional drug poisoning (underlying cause of death ICD-10 codes X40-X44).

Fatal Overdose: Ohio Versus Scioto County 2010-

Progress: Introduction of fentanyl has interfered with sustained progress in Scioto County butto a lesser degree than the state



2016



162% Increase

59% Increase

Step 2: Using Dreamland as the anchor text

Author uses reporter approach by providing multiple background sources

- Jicks letter
- Purdue Pharma
- Life in Nayarit
- Business model for dealers
- Individual interspersed



This at first confused students, caused them to question the text, and then Skype allowed them to actually question the author. The multiple components of the book provided entry points or "hooks" for a wide variety of learners.

Ultimate takeaway--the idea of problem as a puzzle.

Author of Dreamland Skypes with students about his investigative journalism in Scioto County and his

writing technique.



Step 3: The Inside Out Approach -- from the personal to the policies

Brother of an addict that had successfully beat the addiction

Principal of our elementary school describing how addiction affects our students

Local fire chief discussing how addiction stretches community resources

Juvenile Court Judge explaining the judicial response to addiction

Congressman Bill Johnson addressing national policies problems

Kirby Claxon (a trusted coach, staff member and alumni) talks to students about addiction within the family (his brother is a recovering addict)



Elementary Principal addresses students about how addiction affects the elementary school and

community

Students were especially touched by her stories



Judge Alan Lemons, Scioto County Juvenile Judge talks to students





Portsmouth's Fire Chief, Bill Raison talked with the students about how much his department's experiences with the addiction crisis (students esp interested in Narcan)



NPR Talks with Our Students



Tweet from Scott Simon about visit



marketing September 54, 2012 + 1656

St. Marv's Festival returns this weekend

The St. Mary's house

the fixed brooths set up-Estry stated. "We have

offers a preview of the tainment. This year's opening night will feature local singer Josh. Remoon Band.

Guests can enloy ribs and chicken from foods such as hot dogs. piess and hamburgers, drinks and dessert booths and a hiergurten with here supplied

Saturday and Sunday will include all food ooths, highlightng foods from India, aly, Germany, Irend, Mexico, parts of are than 200 cars m lifet of betraque seturday's antique

There will also be kids direct specificate results.

The Masic

fremendous

sponsors that help us do this every year. We

members and community." - Bick Exten freez.

event will out \$3,000 in raffle prize wicosings as Wil of goodies," salurd more than \$1,000. Estep explained thu he was thankful for the

support from the com-

sponsors that help us stated, "He have the members and commi-

each year as more and more people come out to enjoy the weekend. "We're going to have a lot of fun," he con-

national Festival is held mouth near St. Mary's Church on Fifth and Market streets.

Reach Link Plantership of 140-

Only minor injuries in crash



Lewis county school bus involved in accident

1300 and the AA High-

this morning lovolving a

for a truck: Walker said the acci-700 a.m. as school chil dren were being taken.

Beet F-450 Super Duty stock was triseling east on the AA Highway

service with Ky. Rt. 1306 (Kinney Road). He said the driver of the to notice a 2014 Dodge Ram pick-up that had stopped in the easthouns

making a left turn onto Ke. Bt. 1306.

Widney said the Ford truck struck the right. exact of the stupped Dodge pick-up say! cu ing a 2014 Lewis County school bus on Ky. Itz. 1306 that was stopped at the intersection, the driver waiting to cross

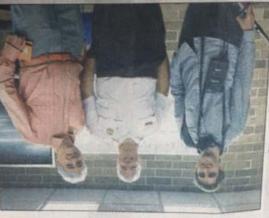
See CRASH | 6A

ing from Hykes brough сяте where they ате соп it lets the kids know the good foundation, becaus

She said that it was a this year with the unit. to start the beginning of feedback that we wanted received so much good Christmas break. We had cross curricular unit after use. We usually do our Judy and I could really it was something that Dreamland and felt that "I started looking at demic by Sam Quinones. America's Opiate Epi-

land, The True Tale of

ian Stewart-NPR, Bill Raison- Portsmouth Fire Chief, Scott Simon-Raegon Cooper SWHS



guived 10 gi ecause they aren't en live in a dreameir students and ts, sometimes ny teachers and o problems. is great and there EWHERE WHERE EVERYis, simply think of tas a place of rest, ant, some may think nks of something difid, everyone probably Thinking of Dream-

moo. Isawbimeibammie@eniyna sy Kimberly Jenkins

Teachers ask: Are you listening?

said dispatchers received

a call from a motorful at younty

Thinking of Dreamland, everyone probably thinks of something different, some may think of it as a place of rest, others, simply think of somewhere where everything is great and there

are no problems. Many teachers and parents, sometimes feel their students and children live in a dreamland, because they aren't listening or paying attention, but at South Webster High School, the students were not in dreamland, they were attentive and involved and wasted to find out.

how to make a difference in their own community. The planning to teach It all started with Judy stress-curricular unit.



te Stewart NPO, Bill Raison-Portsmooth Fire Chief, Scott Simon

Ebesser (English) and Grady Hykes (Government) two of South Webster's High School litchers, that got togeth er a summer ago and

Part of their premise was all about living and helping in a small town

Hyles had read Hillhilly Elegy and someone said to her that she

America's Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quincones 1 started looking at Drougsland and felt that it was something that Judy and I could really me. We usually do our cross curricular unit after Christmas break. We bud received so much good leedback that we wanted to start the beginning of this year with the unit.

She said that it was a good foundation, because it lets the kids know they care where they are coming from. Hykes brought up that there are so man good things in this unit.

"We are always lookin lliw suff guidence sol belp us better understahow to turn around our

See LISTENING

Teachers ask: Are you listening?

See CRASH | 6A

stopped in the eastbound Ram pick-up that had

county. to schools around the

a call from a motorist at said dispatchers received mount notice (andace

Representative Bob Johnson visits and talks about



Congressman Bill Johnson and Judge Lemon



Students can solve problems too

NEWS

South Webster students learn how they can help

By Kimberly Jenkins - kjenkins@aimmediamidwest.com



Engaging and getting students involved in their school work is not always easy, but at South Webster High School, some of their students have a real sense of wanting to be engaged in one of today's biggest problems, the Opioid Epidemic. They have questions and they listen intently as others present to them what they know and feel can be done.

Congressman Bill Johnson and Judge Alan Lemons visited the high school students at South Webster High School. Their visit was the second time that these students were spoken to about the opioid problem in their community, Scioto County, and the United States. These students, again, have been reading the book, *Dreamland, The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*, to continue their work with Cyndy Hykes' Government class shared unit with Judy Ellesser's English class. Last week, the group had Bill Raison, the Portsmouth City Police Chief speak with them.

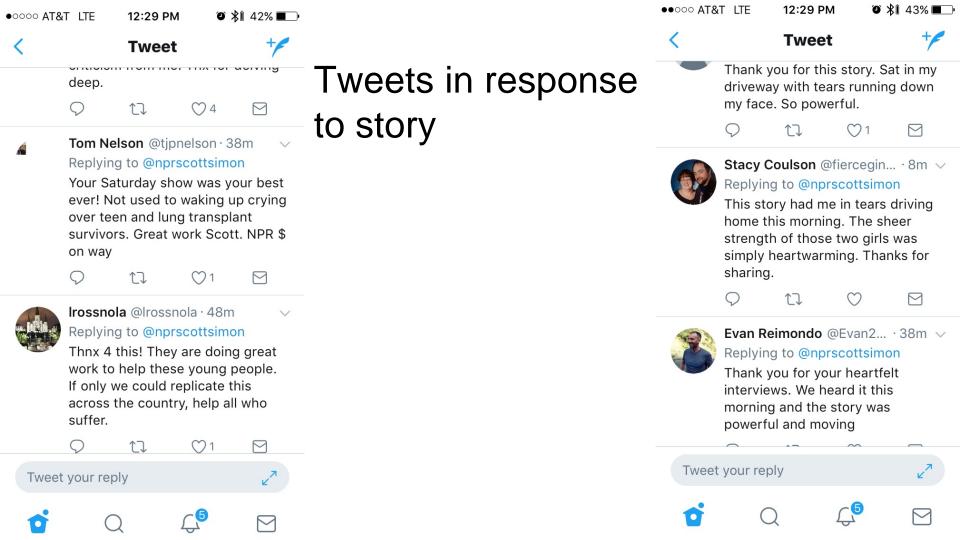
Judge Lemons was the first to speak about the things he has to do as the Probate Judge, as far as how very busy he is, due the heavy case

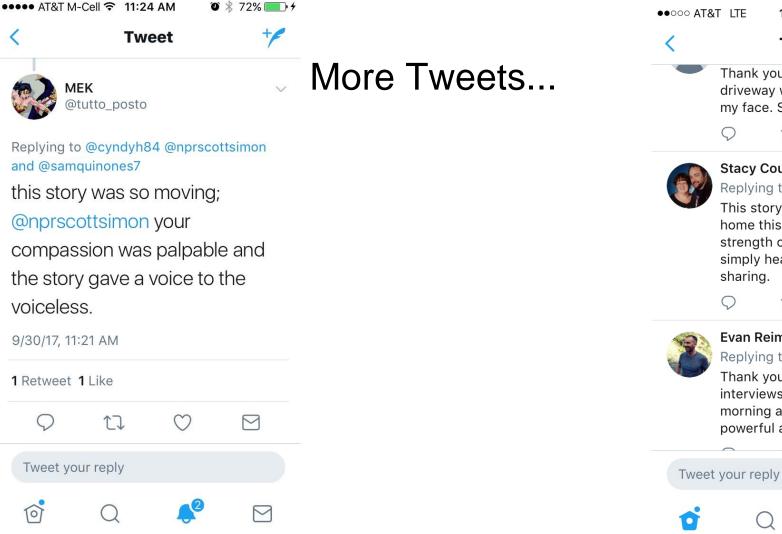
ttp://www.portsmouthailytimes.com/news/192 5/students-can-solveroblems-too

Weekend Edition Saturday's Story:

https://www.npr.org/2017/09/30/554698435/teaching-the-opioid-crisis







Tweet Thank you for this story. Sat in my driveway with tears running down my face. So powerful.



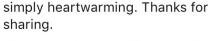
12:29 PM



Stacy Coulson @fiercegin... · 8m V

② ★1 43% **■**

Replying to @nprscottsimon This story had me in tears driving home this morning. The sheer strength of those two girls was



Replying to @nprscottsimon Thank you for your heartfelt

interviews. We heard it this morning and the story was powerful and moving



















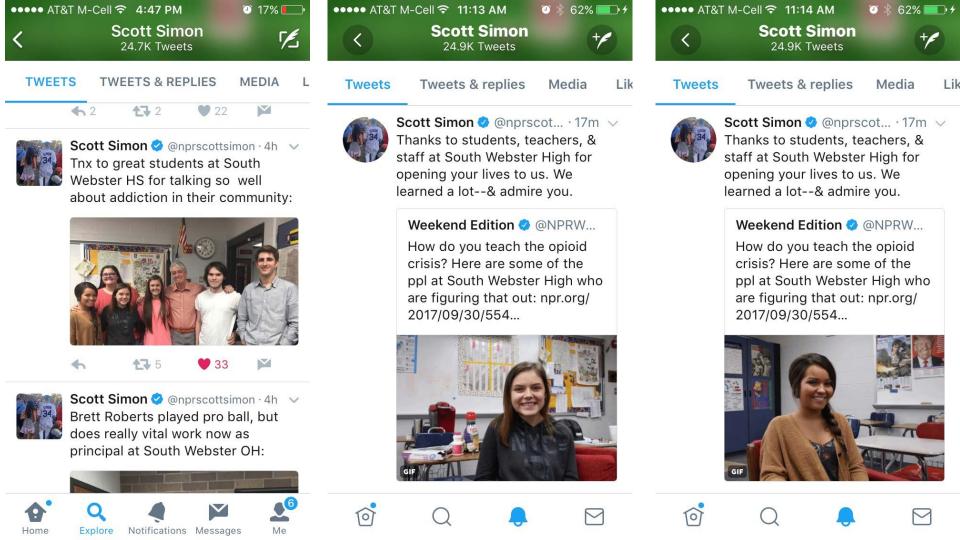


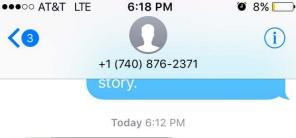












got a letter back from Scott Simon!

You are having one heck of a day! Wow!

iMessag

0

Students received thank you notes from Scott Simon (and by the way, she was also elected by her class-

mates to be home-

coming attendant)



NOW WHAT? ACTION!

After figuring out the scope, breadth and source of the problems, now what?!

How could we mobilize our resources to fight the problem?

How do we change the narrative from victimization to empowerment?
What resources are available and how can we best use them to effect positive change?

Specific Lessons and Steps and then action

Students were armed and ready to begin finding their own solutions to the problem. They formed teams and brainstormed

Big Buddies:)

Raegan Cooper, Jaiden Nibert, Brittany Barnett, Tanner Holbrook, Adrianna Blanton, Tiffany McCormick, Lexi Simpson, James Watson, Zack Keller

My Goals For Toni

I want to make sure that Toni takes more from this than either of us would have expected. I want her to be able to trust people and to motivate her to get out of her comfort zone because sometimes it can be a good thing. I want to teach her what I never knew at her age so she can go out and take the world, then say, "Yeah, I've got this!" I want her to gain life lessons from me and learn from any mistakes. She needs to be the change that she wishes to see in the world. If there's anything going on in her life, I want her to have that fight in her, to stay positive and not give up, to be able to make it in this crazy world and be led into a bright future that I know she can have. I want so much for her because I know that she can do anything and have anything.



BIG BUDDIES PROGRAM

<u>Little Buddies:</u> Chloe Stacey, Arianna Fogle, and Jade Smith.



Volunteers:

Taylor Rawlins, Brianna Smith, Lakin Brown, Baylee Martin, Talia Scott, and Chris Shultz



Present the problem

- Addiction
 - o Starts...
 - o Causes...
- Children facing the repercussions
 - o Lack..
- The cycle continues..



- Opioid crisis
- Mrs. Smith presented a large issue in our community
- "The new addicts were football players and cheerleaders; football was almost a gateway to opiate addiction... Some of theses addicts were from rough corners of rural Appalachia" (Quinones).
- Provoked an idea on what we can do



- Communication will be established between teachers and students volunteering
- 4th grade students will be assigned an upperclassmen
- Upperclassmen will meet with their little buddies

Impact

- A Relationship
- A positive role model
- Grade improvement
- Motivation

Ball 4 All

Group members: Hannah, Bobbi, Liz, Jacob, Dawson, Michael, Ty, Jaden, and Zach

Background



- Sandy Smith inspired us with her touching stories about the kids in the elementary
- We wanted to help the children in our area
- Keep our community close knit and a place where "everyone knows everybody"
- Xalisco children start out as pure and innocent, but they get wrapped up into drugs

Objectives |

- To give kids a good role model to follow.
- We, as a class, want to insure that these kids have someone who influences them in a positive way.
- Also we want to allow the kids to relieve any stress they have and to create new relationships.
- We also want to give them a chance to get rid of all their extra energy that they may not get to during school.

Goals that Directly Impact the Kids

- Role models
- Positive environment
- Basic foundation in most sports
- Teach self-discipline and respect















THE GOAL:

- Get children involved in something.
- Learn to set goals.
- Encourage kids to keep trying even though they may fail.
- TEAMWORK!
- Make kids feel important and part of a team or club.



RESULTS:

Kids LOVED IT!!!!!!



Redemption News

By: Justin stone, Cameron Fuller

Our Project

Our projects is social media awareness. We created social media account including instagram, twitter and facebook. On those account our goal is to create awareness and spread positivity. So many people are negative about the subject of drugs. The thought of a negative person would be "oh he's so far gone drugs has already taken him to his grave there's no point in helping "we want to stop this kind of negative and let people who are on drugs know that the can beat addiction, and that they have the willpower to do so. We also will be including link for people to go to and learn more on different topics of drugs.

Instagram Log

This is one social media in which we have gotten the most response.

1st	0 followers	No photos	Octobers 11, 2017
2nd	35 followers	3 photos	October 12, 2017
3rd	54 followers	4 photos	October 13, 2017
4th	61 followers	4 photos	October 14, 2017
5th	68 followers	4 photos	October 15, 2017
6th	74 followers	5 photos	October 16, 2017
7th	77 followers	5 photos	October 17, 2017

Drug Free Clubs of America

"Breaking The Chain"

• • •

Samuel, Karli, Kelsi, Maddie, Macee, Megan, Emily, Katlyn

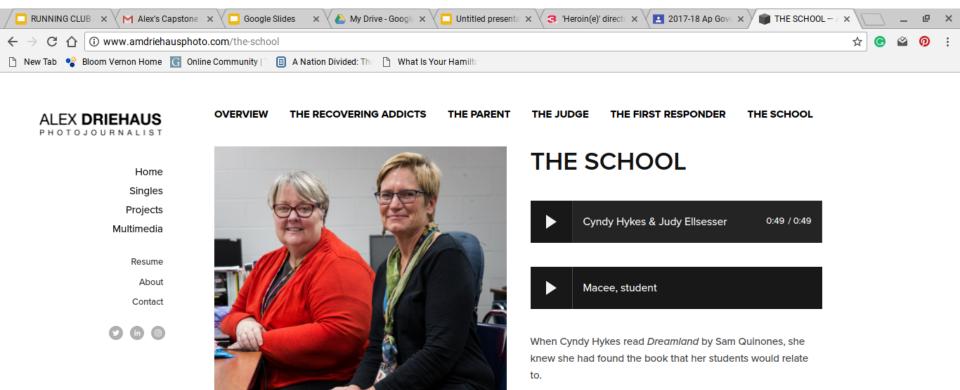
Why We Are Doing This

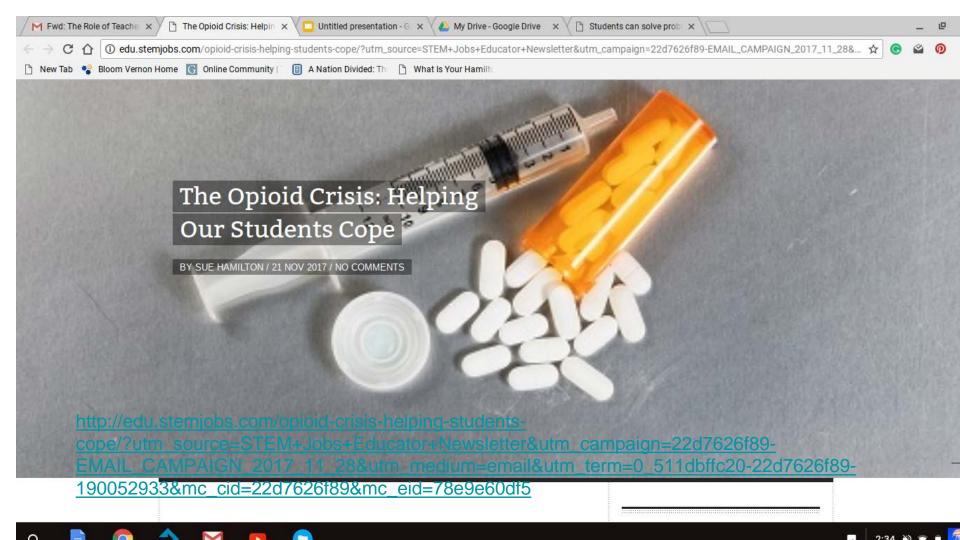
- There is a huge drug epidemic in our area that affects the students in our high school and elementary.
- ½ of those who start at age 13 will be addicted by mid 20s



Alex Driehaus' Heard the NPR story and decided to visit us to help complete her senior capstone project in journalism

http://www.amdriehausphoto.com/overview/ http://www.amdriehausphoto.com/the-school





the death of a parent from an overdose, the <u>anxiety</u> of living in foster care or with relatives, or try to live in a home where their possessions are sold for drugs.

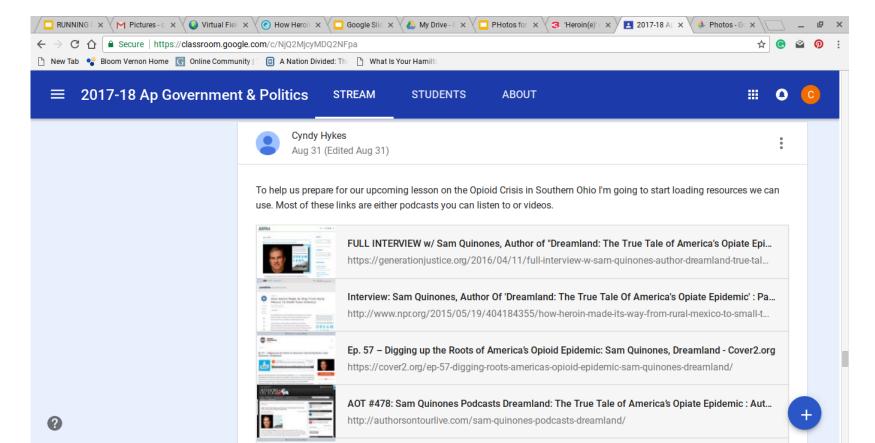
Dreamland

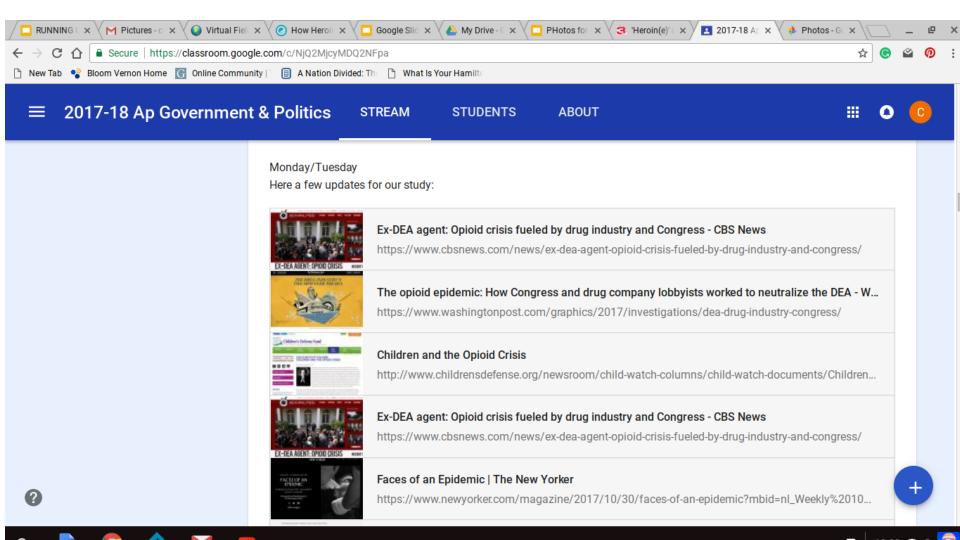
Teachers at South Webster High School in southern Ohio created a course based on the book "Dreamland" by Sam Quinones, which tells how drugs from rural Mexico make their way to the small towns of southern Ohio where these students live. The teachers have also made the community a part of this course and the fire chief, former coroner, counselors, nurses, and a judge tell what they have seen and experienced of the opioid crisis. The kids also learn from other students who are going through the same crisis in their lives. Cyndy Hykes, who teaches the class to almost 50 juniors at South Webster High School, has a mission. "How can I make them feel like their experiences have value, that their community is important, that we're not poor and rural and disposable?"

East Falmouth Elementary

This Cape Cod, Massachusetts elementary school had the opioid crisis come home when six parents of its fourth grade students died of drug overdoses, half of the 12 parent drug deaths

How we communicate lessons with students...





A Take Away about standards...

Much like Red Ribbon Week doesn't cure the drug problem, harping about the tests without digging into authentic learning with a deep purpose doesn't address the scores.

How can we be sure our students know these heroines are our role-models?

