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Buffalo Naval Park

Leadership Program

Why include museums in your curriculum?

VISITS CAN BE CHARACTERIZED BY AN OPEN STRUCTURE IN WHICH STUDENTS SELECT THE TOPICS BEFORE THE VISIT, GATHER INFORMATION RELATED TO THE TOPICS DURING THE VISIT, AND USED THIS MATERIAL AFTER THE VISIT. THIS APPROACH TO SCHOOL TRIPS CAN BE SUCCESSFUL SINCE SEVERAL STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THESE TRIPS MAY RESULT IN DIALOGIC COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENTS.

(BAMBERGER AND TAL, 2007; DEWITT AND HOHENSTEIN, 2010, A; DEWITT AND HOHENSTEIN, 2010, B; STAVROVA AND URHAHNE, 2010).

What is the Buffalo Naval Park Leadership Program?

- The Leadership Program is designed to empower students to understand their rights and duties in correlation to being an American citizen. And to understand that not every American comes from a similar background and upbringing.
- The goal is to have a diverse and inclusive program where students participate in one of three different activities to help prepare them for life outside of school.
- The Naval Park would like to work with school districts, create a plan of action, and reward students who participate and excel in the program.



Junior Docent

- Docents conduct programs by greeting visitors and leading the tours with knowledge and understanding of what is on display.
- Students study an area at the Buffalo Naval Park in order to present the area/exhibition to the public with knowledge on the topic.
- The Naval Park offers a wide array of areas from exhibitions focusing on the War of 1812 and segregation in the military to understanding the ships themselves, how they work, and what it takes to serve in the military aboard one of these vessels.



Junior Curator

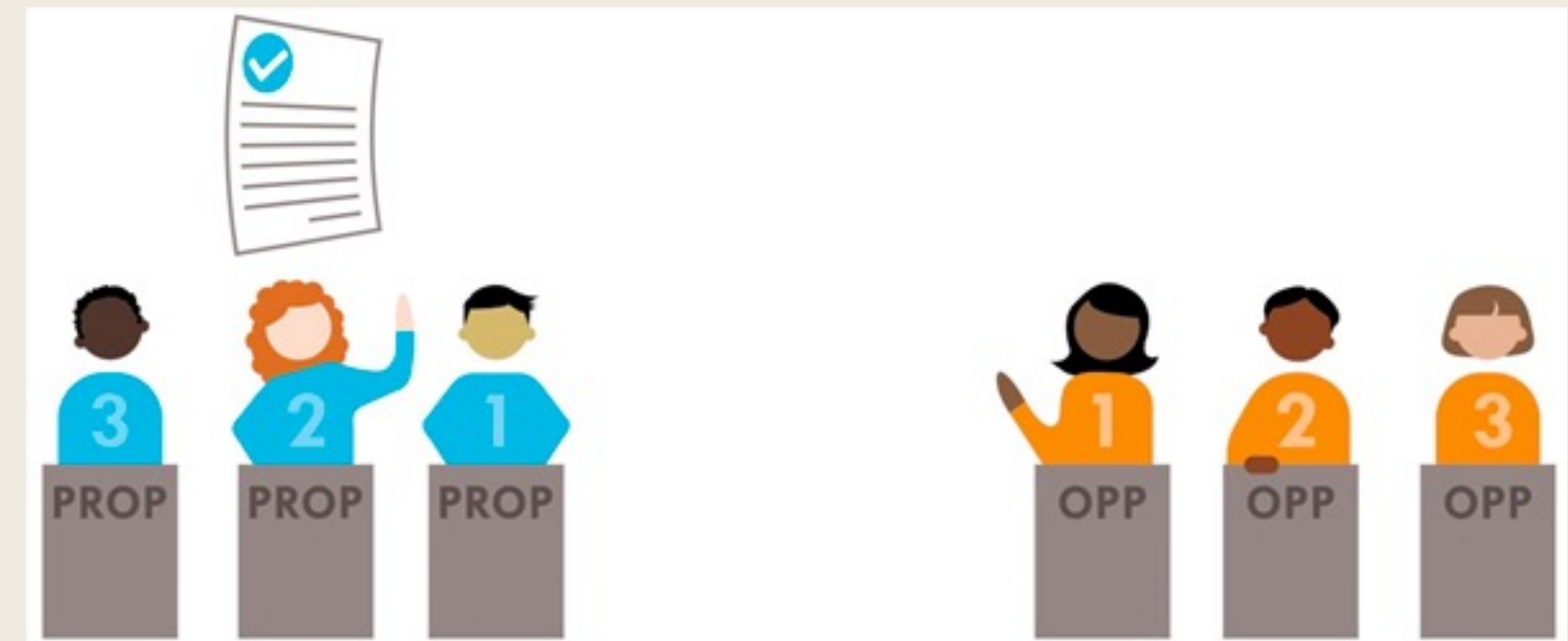
- A curator's role it is to acquire artifacts in order to create a collection. These artifacts become part of displays and exhibitions to inform, educate, and inspire the public.
- The student would choose an artifact from the Naval Park's collection. They would then research the artifact, design an exhibit, create signage, and present the artifact in a museum setting.



Topics and Debate

- Why debate? Debating allows the student to gain experience in developing a convincing argument.
- Students will provide an argument on a topic. Their position is picked randomly. Those who are forced to argue against their personal views of the topic have the benefit of learning that these topics always have at least two sides.
- This allows the student to learn how to research both sides of the topic in order to be prepared with any counter-argument.
- These topics can range from past events to

modern day events. The events can coincide with topics being taught in the particular grade level and curriculum of said students.



Resources

- The idea is to make these activities a week-long project for the students to allow them time to research and present.
 - A website will be created to allow the students and teachers to access materials, keep track of their goals, and store their progress. Videos, lessons, and documentation will be made available through the website.
 - The final day of the activity will be conducted at the Naval Park where the student will present the final activity or debate presentation. The Naval Park will also be accessible to teachers and students at any point during the project.
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