“THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE FIRST DAY OF REAL LIFE.”

~Dr. Zachary Walker, @lastbackpack

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GET REAL:
Authentic Tasks in the 21st Century Classroom

CHRIS GOSSelin
BETH HUGHES
Wakefield Public Schools
WHO

WE ARE...

@cjgosselin
@msbethhughes
WHERE
WE ARE FROM...
“THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL SHOULD LOOK LIKE THE FIRST DAY OF REAL LIFE.”

~Dr. Zachary Walker, @lastbackpack
I see you did well in school, but what real-world skills do you have?

Tests. I can take tests.
“Every day I wake up and say, ‘God, I HATE high school.’ But I don’t hate it because I think it is stupid, or I won’t need any of this. I hate it because it is so BORING. I want to learn INTERESTING things, stuff I’M interested in. Stuff that will help me.”

~ A Junior Honors English Student
THE CYCLE OF HIGH SCHOOL

Lecture ➔ Cram ➔ Stress

Forget (don't care) ➔ Test ➔ (apathy)
school

life

relevance
The Traits of Authentic Learning

- Passion-Based Learning
- Real-World Assessment
- Authentic Response
Passion-Based Learning
WHY PASSION BLOGS?

- Cultivates an environment where student choice and voice are the priority.
- Provides opportunities for [authentic] routine writing.
- Curates a digital footprint [moving beyond Snapchat].
- Encourages the "creative self".
- Creates a culture of connectivity [in more ways than one].
Blogging = street cred
fortheloveofreading.org
mrgosselin.org
msbethhughes.org

Check some out here!
Student spotlight: 
Kira
Real-World Assessment
STUDENT-DRIVEN ASSESSMENT
GOOD-BYE,
LITERARY ARTS & CRAFTS!
HELLO, REAL-WORLD TASKS!
BOOK CLUBS
- Elicits Less Stress & Richer Responses
- Creates the Same Playing Field, instead of Rewarding the Strong Memorizers
- Provides Opportunities to Meet Speaking & Listening Standards
- Focuses on Content, not Test-Taking
- Demonstrates Standards, not Regurgitation of Already-Tested Content
- Allows Students to Hone a Life Skill: Interacting with Unfamiliar Peers
SUMMARY SNAPS
Daniel D.
"You are the oldest, and I expect you to be responsible for your sisters and brothers." (Santiago 123)

Cassie L.
"She's my daughter," Where does she live?" (Santurce.) (Papi 26).
My picture is a map of the world and the family has decided to move to Santurce, which is located in Puerto Rico. Esmeralda was talking with her father one night and found out that she has an older sister named Margie. Mami was very upset with Papí that he told her that information so suddenly when he is barely around to help around the house. The mother has told the family that they will be moving into the city and Esmeralda is not sure how to feel about it, along with the rest of her brothers and sisters.

Zach C.
"We're moving to the city. Life will be better." (Santiago 33)
One of the ideas in this book is that everything is constantly changing. Some of the changes that take place in this book include Esmeralda's father leaving her mother, moving to the city, and having two new siblings. All three of these events where big changes to Esmeralda's life that she has to overcome. That's why I chose the picture of the leaves because the leaves change colors with the season. I chose the quote because it shows the mother telling her children their lives will change for the better when they move to the city.

Jay P.
"We're moving to the city. Life will be better there." (Mami 33). The picture of the light which I have attached refers back to the theme of, there is a better life in the future. The light, shows light. When moving from the suburbs to the city, Mami states that life won't be as bad as it was in the suburbs. Back in Macun (their suburb house), there was no running water, no lights, and Mami and Papí fought all the time. Also, not only does moving to the city provide a brighter future, but Esmeralda now will have running water and literally have light.

Camryn D.
"They call Americanos imperialists, which means they want to change our country and our culture to be like theirs." (Santiago 73).
One big idea of When I was a Puerto Rican is assimilation. Some Americans came to Puerto Rico and gave all of the people living there food. They brought American food that is not available in Puerto Rico. Also, they taught English in their schools so they could learn to talk like Americans. Americans were trying to make Puerto Ricans more like them which impacted Esmeralda's life a lot.
Jay P.

"We're moving to the city. Life will be better there" (Santiago 33).

The picture of the light which I have attached refers back to the theme of, there is a better life in the future. The light, shows light. When moving from the suburbs to the city, Mami states that life won't be as bad as it was in the suburbs. Back in Macun (their suburb house), there was no running water, no lights, and Mami and Papi fought all the time. Also, not only does moving to the city provide a brighter future, but Esmeralda now will have running water and literally have light.
LESS TESTING.
MORE ASSESSMENT.
Authentic Response
How do we amplify authentic responses from our students?
THE CYCLE OF HIGH SCHOOL

Lecture → Cram → Stress

Apathy → Forget (don't care) → Test
The Cycle of Authentic Learning

- Passion-Based Learning
- Authentic Response
- Real-World Assessment
OUR FORMULA:

REAL-WORLD TASKS

+  21ST-CENTURY TOOLS

+ STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

AUTHENTIC LEARNING
"Bring **school and life together** to give students the **relevance** they need, **deserve**, and **expect**."

Eric Sheninger

“Schools That Work” TedxTalk
THE BEST PART?

Our students have responded.
force-feeding vs. Consuming

What are we going to promote? Time to make a choice.
Join our PLN!
Fortheloveofreading.org
#ftlor
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Any Questions?