



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: In the Footsteps of Anne Frank **Name:** Elaine Colella
Other Team Members:
Program: EL Education Program
Trip Dates: 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001 **Location Visited:** Netherlands, Germany
Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 02

Project Summary: In order to engage students in literature that connects real-world issues, I utilize the play version of The Diary of Anne Frank in my classroom as an anchor text during an in-depth study of propaganda and truth. As an authentic context, The Diary emotionally connects students to the historical and personal conflicts faced by the characters involved. As students research, read, and perform the play, they analyze and evaluate the pressure cooker that is the Franks' hidden third floor apartment. Concurrently, students relate Anne's world to the larger picture of that time, the global scenario containing racist monsters that, at any moment, might consume the play's main characters.

In order to better serve my students in facilitating this comprehensive study, I felt it imperative to gain knowledge about both Anne Frank's personal experience and the broad canvas of the Holocaust. My primary goal was to better understand the physical context in which Anne Frank lived, and then, by becoming a primary source, connect Anne to my students with pictures, video, interviews, and sincerity from personal knowledge of her claustrophobic predicament. My secondary goals were to learn how teachers in countries with direct historical connections to WWII approach the teaching of the Holocaust; and, finally, to gather information on how propaganda was used to manipulate entire nations.

My research brought me to many historically significant locations in Europe: The Anne Frank House; The Anne Frank Documentation Center; The Dutch Resistance Museum; The Westerbork Transit Camp; Bergen-Belsen; Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp; Dachau; The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, and the Nazi Party Rally Grounds in Nuremberg.

Career Impact: Not only has this journey given me the experiences to help my students learn about the dangers of discrimination, it has also given me a greater sense of responsibility to do this. Having seen the results of mass propaganda and manipulation, I will be better prepared to guide my students in understanding the events of the past. My research has given me true-life models that will engage and connect students to the world in which Anne Frank lived.

This trip challenged me to become an observer and witness to events that are often times difficult to digest. I had to be objective and still, while all the time feeling emotions of horror and incredulity within.

My greatest challenge of this project, however, awaits me. This journey allowed me to gather hours of video documenting each site in rich detail. I must now sort through it all and create a series of movies that highlight the depth of information packed in each clip.

Classroom/Community Impact: With detailed descriptions, authentic stories, photos, and historical information posted on my blog throughout my fellowship experience, and by creating films of my journey, I will help students understand Anne Frank's predicament and the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany.

Open Response: I will be presenting my experiences through slideshows and films to students and fellow teachers. I am still working with the teacher I met in Amsterdam to develop international correspondence through emails and blogs to discuss and reflect on the Holocaust during her class' investigations, and ours. The goal is to have the students from The Netherlands relate their experiences of their visit to the Anne Frank House to my students.

Ultimately, I will be working with my team at school to enrich an expeditionary learning project that focuses on propaganda and the manipulation of the truth.

Quote: Not only has this journey given me the experiences to help my students learn about the dangers of discrimination, it has also given me a greater sense of responsibility to do this.

Photos:



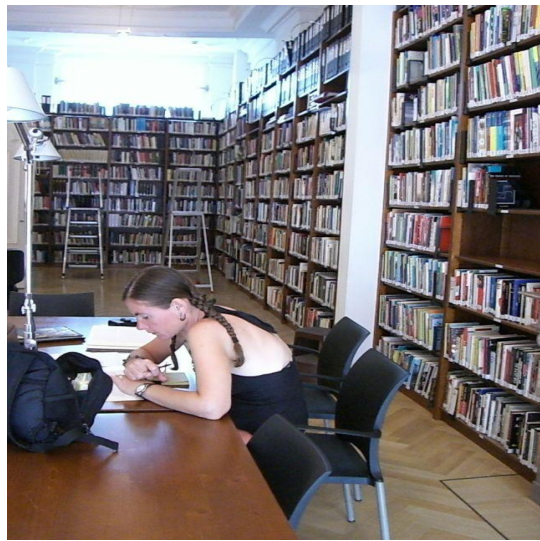
Westerbork Museum



Anne Frank Statue at Merwedeplein



Bergen-Belzon



At the Anne Frank Documentation Center



Dachau



Westerbork Memorial



Arbeit Macht Frei



Anne Frank Statue at the West Church