Reflection Methods in PEER Summer Program

Building a Community with an Active Reflection Culture

Presenter: Huipu Li, PEER Research Department Director
Objective and Background

• Peer Experience Exchange Rostrum (PEER)

  • Non-profit education organization based in China
  • Focus on secondary school students in rural China
  • Critical thinking, creativity, teamwork and citizenship are major programs goals
  • Most volunteers are Chinese college students overseas or domestically.
  • Starting from 2006, 140 volunteers and 730 students have joined PEER programs.
Objective and Background

• Current programs
  • Summer Program
    • Basic method: service learning through collaborative innovation.
  • Winter Program
  • PEER Library
  • Local office and representative
Objective and Background

• 2010 PEER Summer Program
Peer Experience Exchange Rostrum

- Thought-provoking seminars
- Individual mentor for students
- Collaborative activities
- Student-initiated projects
Methods

- Structurally facilitated reflection activities are integrated into every stage of the program for both volunteers and students.
Methods

• For volunteers:
  – Pre-camp
    • Online-reading program
    • Orientation
  – In camp
    • Daily reflection meeting
    • Seminar reflection
  – Post-camp
Methods

• For volunteers:
  – Pre-camp
    • Online-reading program
    • Orientation
Some of the questions on the daily self-reflection form during the orientation:

• What is the today’s most impressionable activity?
• What work did you finish today? Are you satisfied with it? If not, how would you improve it?
• What is your working plan tomorrow?
• Did you make any new friends today?
Methods

• For volunteers:
  – In camp
    • Daily reflection meeting
    • Seminar reflection
Methods

Some of the questions for seminar reflections:

• What are the goals for today’s teaching?
• Please quickly go over the material you covered in class.
• Please describe how you pedagogically designed this class.
• Please describe the discussions in class. What were the questions? How did students react?
• What were the challenges you met in today’s teaching? How would you like to improve? If necessary, you might consider revise your syllabus and integrate your insights into the rest of the seminar.
Methods

• For volunteers:
  – Post-camp
自主活动

优点

- 每个小组都有最终成果
- 个别小组表现尤其出色，如文学、辩论、社会调查等
- 展示会非常成功，得到校方的高度赞扬

不足

- 首次开展自主活动经验不足，志愿者参与度把握不好
- 时间安排不够合理，导致某些小组后期辛苦赶工，某些小组时间太过充裕
- 没有想到邀请家长一起观看展示会
Methods

- For students:
  - Daily reflection guided by volunteers
Results

• Higher satisfaction from both volunteers and students.
• Stronger connections between students and volunteers, volunteers and volunteers which extend after the camp.
Our flag travels with Volunteers!!

@Dubai
@Guangzhou
@Hongkong

@Hongkong
Thank you!

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