

Using Digital Tools to Engage the 21st Century Learner



In October, Alternative Education (Alt. Ed.) students embraced the opportunity to develop their literacy skills and proficiency in using digital tools, while building relationships with their peers and teachers (Capacity Building K-12). Ms. Mitsku and Ms. Mouchbahani facilitated an inquiry activity in the FMG Library Learning Commons around coming-of-age themes. The students approached the learner-centred environment with confidence, while being encouraged to have “voice and choice” in their learning. The students provided meaningful feedback on their experience. Mustafa Khaleel, said, “the lesson gave us a chance to express our thoughts and feelings about growing up,” and Denzel Aquino stated, “I usually don’t like poetry but picking out words from the page provided, to

create found poetry, was a good way to introduce poetry writing and to more easily express my ideas.”

The use of the website *Padlet* was a new experience for this group, but they showed us something we hadn’t seen students do before: integrate selfies amidst their *Padlet* comments. It was impressive - students can always take something to another level! Rania Jarrar said, “I liked that we could add pictures to the screen as well as our comments directly into the lesson in real time,” and Kacey Cross added, “using the laptops with keyboards was a fun way to learn and to build up our comfort and skill levels with technology”.

Seeing how technology engaged and empowered the students, while maximizing their learning, was truly a rewarding experience for the teacher facilitators. Nick Amodeo commented, “I never knew the library had so much to offer,” but without the students, the rich conversations and deep learning could not have taken place. So, hats off to this highly responsive group of students to whom I look forward to seeing again soon in the Library Learning Commons!



Ms. Mouchbahani (a.k.a. Ms. M, the Teacher-Librarian)