



ARTIVISM ZINE

A monthly newsletter highlighting and connecting initiatives/projects that transform society through the power of art

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Dr. Stephanie Lake, Professor, Adelphi University On Experiential Learning

Over the years, in addition of teaching academic courses, you have also conducted exceptional parallel extracurricular programming. What are some best practices for keeping students actively engaged?

I prioritize **experiential learning** and **student ownership** by involving students in **organizing events**, such as False Confessions and Wrongful Conviction, The Central Park Five, Chalk-up, panel discussions, workshops such as researching sundown towns on Long Island, fair trade fashion shows, Presidential Debate Bingo and watch parties, etc. **Encouraging creativity** and aligning initiatives with current societal issues, like voter suppression, gendered violence, mass incarceration, or wrongful conviction, ensures relevance and sustained interest.

Building partnerships with other departments, initiatives and clubs also broadens the scope and impact of these activities. These outside of class **opportunities** have been available through the Criminal Justice Club, Internship Program, Clothesline Project and Artivism: The Power of Art for Social Transformation. This **collaboration-building** exercise gives students a sense of **responsibility, community, and belonging.**

What is your goal in providing this unique experience to your students rather than taking the more traditional academic approach?

By immersing students in **practical real-world applications** of their studies while participating in events and internships, it allows them to **step out of their comfort zones**, engage with diverse perspectives and **develop critical thinking skills**. These opportunities not only **enhance their understanding** of criminal justice and sociology but also **empowers** them to **imagine and contribute to a just and equitable future.**

“Art is our one true global language. It knows no nation, it favors no race, it acknowledges no class. It speaks to our need to reveal, heal, and transform. It transcends our ordinary lives and lets us imagine what is possible.”
—Richard Kamler

