

Patricia LaCaze

Adams State University
(813) 420-1200

Using Nearpod to enhance learning and drive participation

4th August 2019

OVERVIEW

Nearpod is a fast-growing teaching platform designed to engage students and allow them to learn in a highly interactive way. Student engagement can be a challenge in a low-income school as students strive to meet their basic needs and are subject to ever changing hardships. My personal experience with Nearpod and the classroom has been highly successful. I find student engagement and participation at almost 100% for every class because students love seeing their progress, participation, and collaboration on screen with their peers. Not only is this beneficial for students, but also me as well because I receive instant formal assessment data that I can use for grades or to check for understanding. Nearpod can be used for any subject, any grade, and there's already lessons prepared for students. Nearpod lessons can be easily modified to meet the needs of the teacher or students, critical for students with differentiated needs and challenges.

How this training is integrated with NASA

The Nearpod platform itself is not specific to NASA, however it can be used to strengthen ANY NASA resource. As per my PD, I will teach the mechanics of the Nearpod website, and then follow with a NASA lesson using Nearpod features. Science teachers can implement this NASA lesson, while other subject area teachers can implement Nearpod features to strengthen their curriculum or use both methods; NASA resources in their curriculum and Nearpod.

Anticipated **audience** will be various teachers of varying subject areas of Hudson Middle School. I will serve any teacher who wishes me to follow up with their Nearpod endeavors. All teachers will be actively involved in the Nearpod PD presentation. I plan to follow up with two teachers and their classroom success in

implementing their own Nearpod lesson. I will gently push for NASA resources in their lesson. I anticipate teachers will be from subjects of Math, Science, ELA, Art, and electives. Each teacher teaches at least a hundred students.

STEM concepts and Learning Goals

GOALS

1. Recognize how Nearpod can improve teaching and learning in the classroom
2. Observe NASA data from Global Climate Change and Images of Change, to strengthen science curriculum.

Nearpod teaches students to collaborate and work together. Student make and communicate data driven analysis of information given visually through pictures or through text. Students can complete quizzes and formally assess their understanding of the topic in fun and engaging ways. Students enhance learning through digital field trips, 3D analysis, and phet simulations. These methods can easily replace conventional worksheets and cost literally nothing, as not even paper is required, just an internet connection. The **standards** to be taught in Nearpod are countless, but for my PD will be

SC.6.E.6.1 Describe and give examples of ways in which Earth's surface is built up and torn down by physical and chemical weathering, erosion, and deposition.

SC.6.E.6.2 Recognize that there are a variety of different landforms on Earth's surface such as coastlines, dunes, rivers, mountains, glaciers, deltas, and lakes and relate these landforms as they apply to Florida.

SC.8.E.5.10 Assess how technology is essential to science for such purposes as access to outer space and other remote locations, sample collection, measurement, data collection and storage, computation, and communication of information.

SC.7.E.6.6 Identify the impact that humans have had on Earth, such as deforestation, urbanization, desertification, erosion, air and water quality, changing the flow of water.

The professional PD will be **carried out** in the media center with an hour long training session. This session will most likely happen during our professional development time. Participants must RSVP via email to join the session. At least 12 members will be present. Teachers will be required to bring their own laptops and a set of headphones to watch select videos on their own.

Survey questions via Survey Monkey will be given during the end of the PD session and will involve overall satisfaction of the training, relevance of the training to enhance their teaching styles, and satisfaction and anticipation goals with using

Nearpod. The survey will also ask the ease of making a Nearpod. There will also be questions to ask the quality of the NASA demonstrations present. Post-survey questions will ask how my training, Nearpod and use of Nearpod, influenced their use of STEM in the classroom. The post survey will also ask how many students, on average, were in full participation and how many students appeared to thoroughly enjoy this teaching method. The survey will also ask if they decided to use a NASA source in connection to their lesson, and any final overall thoughts about Nearpod and the ease of implementing Nearpod in their classroom.

My **expectations** for the use of Nearpod and NASA sources is to open a broader view for lesson enhancement, while instilling the growth mindset of the use of technology in the classroom. The NASA resources offered will also allow for the expansion of any subject area when using a little creativity. The major goal for my PD is to enhance student participation in all subject areas using Nearpod and NASA resources.

I will **follow up** with educators via email and in person. I will discuss lesson enhancement when using Nearpod and how successful it was for them in an informal discussion. I will offer assistance for any educator that requires it. After this point, I will request the final survey for a few educators to really think about their experiences. This is how I will collect my qualitative data and analyze my PD's success.