



## Using Your Personal Passion to Electrify Teaching

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### **A little bit about Toney**

- ❑ 14 years as a classroom teacher.
- ❑ Prior to teaching fulltime, he was a substitute teacher and performer doing workshops around literacy.

### **Rhyming and hip hop in the classroom**

- The most engaging lessons are those that happened when your authentic self comes out.
- Hip hop and poetry can open up the curriculum to the students and make it relevant and engaging.
- What does incorporating hip hop and poetry in the classroom look like?
  - Turn on music in the classroom (chill beats or classical) and create a rap around new vocabulary words and encourage students to do the same.
  - Search through the curriculum that you can present in songs.
  - Ask students to create songs and videos around the content.
- There is a clear movement from just sharing something with them or helping them create something with the medium you're passionate about.
- How can you guide students through their creative process?
  - Build relationships with students to uncover what students are passionate about.
  - Be open to the different modes of creative expression.
  - It's not having them be a "mini-me" it's about having them be themselves and share that.

- Create an atmosphere of encouragement of self-expression.
- Class meetings can be a valuable way to connect to the students and to allow them to connect with each other.

### **How can we bring our own passions into our classrooms?**

- Find ways to bring the attitude you have for your passion in the classroom.
- Dive into your passion no matter what it is and find ways to bring it into some part of the curriculum.
- Examples:
  - Add storytelling into vocabulary lessons
  - Bring music into math
- Be ok with failure and for kids to NOT love it right away.

### **How do we help others if they are just beginning to bring their passions into their teaching?**

- Support them as they find value in engaging the students through their passion.
- Encourage them to go even deeper and really integrate their creative medium into their teaching and allow students to do the same.

### **Technology in the classroom**

- Find ways to use the technology for things you are teaching rather than just grabbing a cool app to try in the classroom.
- Example:
  - Use data to look at how each student is doing and drill down where they need help and support to grow.
- 1:1 Chromebook ideas:
  - Moving from consumers to creators
    - Moving from watching YouTube to creating your own YouTube videos.
    - Content creation, how can we create something to share?
      - Doesn't have to be using tech
        - Drawing, sketching, comics, infographics
      - Videos, music
  - Getting students future-ready
    - Sharing our creations with the world
      - Answering the questions "what are we going to do with our creations?"
    - Gary Vaynerchuk
      - Attention is currency

### **How can we use our passion to make sure we are providing an equitable education?**

- The digital divide is extensive and very real.
  - The answer is not just to provide more hot spots or get more devices.
  - We need to ask the question of “who are we NOT listening to”?
  - Follow the voices of people who are doing the work and are from those communities.
    - [#Educolor](#) and [#ClearTheAir](#) on Twitter are extensive communities of people doing the work and having the conversations.
    - It’s VERY rare that those that are affected by the decisions are the ones brought to the table to discuss them.

### **What about those who say they can’t do this because I’m they are “not creative”?**

- Step back and think about it from multiple perspectives.
- Try to find out what their circumstance is and where they are coming from.
- Teachers need trust and respect. Show that to them and encourage them to try something new with your support.