

I had an amazing time this quarter working with the great students of Urban Discovery Academy. This course has exceeded my expectations; I have found that the kids make the whole quarter worthwhile. Working with the students for two hours helped to take the stress out of my own homework; even though, there were times when the kids did contribute to the stress. Having the opportunity to work with such a diverse charter school was an experience in itself. I learned a lot from the students and was often amazed at their knowledge and abilities. I hope UCSD will continue to carry on programs like these because it allows college students to connect with the younger generations who will shape up to be the leaders of our world. In the end I think I learned more from the students than they learned from me.

Throughout the quarter it has been the highlight of my days to go to Urban Discovery after a rough day of classes and homework. From the time A came to pick me up until the time I got home at around 5:30, it was a good time to get outside of La Jolla and interact with the students of UDA. I enjoyed getting to know A during our car rides and sometimes, we'd treat ourselves to dinner or shopping after UDA. While at UDA, the students made the program fulfilling.

I liked the idea of our group trying to bring in activities that enhanced the classroom learning and incorporated global awareness for the students. It was also great that the kids themselves were such a diverse group - all working together at the school. The kids really got into the activities. We got them to explore their creative side with the art projects, that contained "hidden" practice in language and math skills. It gave them a chance to do something more meaningful than their usual computer lab routine where they would play games that were not enhancing their knowledge or skills, and they had a lot more fun than if they were just doing homework.

It was hard to leave the students. This practicum has been overall a very rewarding experience since I got to escape from my own busy school life and work with the students who have so much potential. These kids are so smart and are so young. I hope they will do great things in their lives. I highly recommend that all college students work with young students because it really helps to connect to the younger generation which is something beneficial to both adults and the kids.