

Reflection with an academic librarian

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Meeting with my academic librarian has been difficult, but I have come up with a plan so that when we are able to meet, we have a starting point.

The plan that I want to discuss with my academic librarian is to take my students on campus at the Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt to do some research for our research project in the college library. Yes, we have resources in our library and the computer is at our fingertips, but to take students on campus and have them experience a true research experience would be a great experience.

I know that students learn best by doing. So, working with my high school librarian would be a great start. I am a librarian but am teaching English at the present time. My students are puzzled when I tell them that I am also a librarian. Anyway, by bringing in my high school librarian to help me lay the groundwork for our research project will be a major plus. We can do the preliminary work by finding a topic and doing some basic searches to narrow down our topics. My librarian and I would teach my students the proper research procedures and work with them to find a source or two.

After we do this, I want to take my students on campus to hear from another person how to research. Then, they will have the chance to do the research.

I also know that our students do need a refresher course on the basics of the library. Our high school librarian and I would go over the Dewey decimal numbers

and also some of the common resource materials. I would also like to access the North Dakota State Library's online resources.

The only problems I foresee are the weather and the time. I have a 50 minute class period and 30 minutes of that would be used for driving. So, I need to get this approved from my administration so that we can take a morning or afternoon to do this visit. I know that we would be able to work this out with the library.

I also want to bend the librarian's ear about preparing students for college now at the high school level. What does she feel that I need to do? What ideas does she have for me?

Many of my students will be attending TMCC in the fall. I think I would also like to set up a parent & student visit in the spring. This would also get the parents (community) onto the campus to utilize the library resources there as well. This would be great. Again, timing would be the biggest issue.

TMCC has a new library director and it has been difficult to communicate, but I have calls in and am waiting for a reply. I have had contact with other people at the college and I know that it will work but to find a time that works right now is hard. I will be sitting down with her soon.

I will send you a follow-up when we do get a visit if you wish.