

Rachel Hallock

Event Name: Science of Brewing

The Best Part: Eating beef for the first time in 10 years.

The Worst Part: The format of question-and-answer. Most people were too anxious for the food and drink to ask good questions (myself included).

A New Idea: I didn't know gin was just flavored vodka tea.

What You Gained From The Event: I gained a new appreciation for the intricacies of different alcoholic beverage production. I never thought about how different beer-making was from distilling and wineries from cideries.

What You Will Take To Your Classroom: Real world applications of scientific principles. I will not necessarily talk about brewing in my classroom, but fermentation in regards to other foods and drinks could be appropriate and applicable.

Event Name: Surviving Your First Year Teaching

The Best Part: Talking to a first year teacher at a private school about the differences between private and public schools.

The Worst Part: The panel consisted of one second year teacher.

A New Idea: Substitute teach in the district if you get hired in May so you can get to know the school and the students.

What You Gained From The Event: I will heed the warning to stay away from negative people and those who like to complain as well as work to not become one of those people myself.

What You Will Take To Your Classroom: Weigh labs the same as tests so all students can show their strengths.

Event Name: Differentiated Earth Science Labs

The Best Part: It was packed with inservice teachers that asked really great questions

The Worst Part: The presenter was pretty transparent with the fact that he only used differentiation in the title as a buzzword.

A New Idea: Having different student groups make graphs on pre-scaled chart paper and connecting them as a way to get a giant class graph.

What You Gained From The Event: 5 Lab Activities that this teacher uses regularly and ideas for ways to sort-of differentiate them.

What You Will Take To Your Classroom: I talked to some other teachers about literacy differentiation after the presentation ended and they told me about "rewordify"

Event Name: Safety in the Laboratory

The Best Part: I got to ask a lot of questions (there were only 3 audience members)

The Worst Part: The presenter didn't want to answer questions, he just wanted to talk about his talking points.

A New Idea: If a non-science teacher has a homeroom in your classroom, you are liable for any safety infractions.

What You Gained From The Event: Some people will lecture no matter what.

What You Will Take To Your Classroom:

Event Name: Special Needs in the Science Classroom

The Best Part: This workshop felt a lot like the classes we've been taking with Heather and Peter. We had group work and gallery walks and used chart paper.

The Worst Part: I wanted to spend more time here!

A New Idea: The importance of helping students stay organized (make them keep their lab notebooks in class, make sure they use a planner)

What You Gained From The Event: Appreciation for teachers who, even after years of teaching, still try to learn more about these "best practices"

What You Will Take To Your Classroom: Everything - I took so many notes.

Event Name: PBL Interdisciplinary Collaboration with ELA Teachers and Librarians

The Best Part: A fellow-teacher candidate

The Worst Part: It was a lecture that I only went to because my presenter didn't show up

A New Idea: There are PBL PD associations/events

What You Gained From The Event: It is important to incorporate your community into the PBL problem you choose.

What You Will Take To Your Classroom: Writing like a scientist in a science classroom.