

TEPS Grant Conference Report

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National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology 2022

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Dear TEPS Committee, Dr. Frahm, and Curriculum Office:

I wanted to thank the committee for the opportunity to attend NITOP 2022. It was a great experience and will impact my teaching of AP Psychology moving forward. The four-day conference was full of impactful sessions, lesson ideas, and time to interact with colleagues from around the country.

One of the sessions that was particularly interesting to me and will have both an immediate and a long-term impact on my classes and students was the Garth Neufeld session on saving introductory psychology. Garth was one of the lead authors and creators of the new APA framework for curriculum in introductory psychology that the college board is now modeling their new curriculum after. In the session he discussed the shift to more skills-based items and how to integrate both content and skills into the classroom per the new framework. My plan is to rework the AP Psychology curriculum to better align with the new standards over the next two years and this session helped me prepare myself for that.

Another session I found interesting was Saul Kassin's session on false confessions and the basic psychology behind why individuals confess to crimes they did not commit. He outlined and explained the three main reasons why individuals confess to crimes they did not commit. He also went into how the psychology is so basic, but most law enforcement agencies ignore the basic psychological principles. I will be directly inputting this into my lessons on false confessions and constructed memory that I teach in AP Psychology. This is an example of the high-level individual that NITOP has each year. Mr. Kassin is actually one of the people who was integral in helping exonerate the Central Park 5.

Another benefit of the conference is the ability to interact with other psychology teachers, including other AP Psychology teachers from around the country. As the only person in the district who has ever taught AP Psychology it is a challenge to find others to exchange ideas with. This year I met and discussed AP Psychology with teachers from Alaska, Minnesota, and Seattle. The ability to have these discussions is invaluable and will help me adjust my class and better deliver material to my students.

Thank you again for the opportunity to attend NITOP 2022.

Matt Andrews