**Why I support Student’s as Creators.**

**I started teaching 20 some odd years ago and we as a society were beginning to realize the Industrial Age was quickly ending and the Information Age was beginning. At the beginning of my career smart phones didn’t exist and computers were still a novelty in most homes and in my school. The middle school I taught at had a bank of computers in the library for teachers and students to use and even had a few computer lab classrooms. As the 21st Century began this would rapidly change.**

**Due to the Information revolution one of the biggest changes to happen to education was a shift from students as consumers of knowledge to students as creators of knowledge and 20 years into my career we as teachers are still trying to adjust and adapt. A huge part of our job is to teach students to how to find, evaluate, and interpret information. But our job doesn’t end there as we must help the students take this information, this knowledge and create something new, something meaningful with it.**

**As a librarian my job is to help teachers and students be explorers, creators, and innovators of information. Every day I strive to create a library media center that is a welcoming, friendly, safe, fascinating place to learn. By building this environment and working with my fellow teachers my goal is to empower students to be curious, to ask questions, and seek out the answers to these questions. In the end it is my hope that student’s will become lifelong learners.**

**The internet and world wide web has made it possible for us to retrieve information instantaneously but as we are reminded on an almost daily basis not all information is equal. Students must understand why it is important to evaluate sources and information and learn the process for doing so, this is a skill that will benefit them throughout their life not only when conducting work related research but also when confronted with information being shared on social media. Once students have done the research for a particular topic they have an almost limitless way of remixing that knowledge to create their product. Products can still be created in the traditional way, research paper, poster, collage, newspaper article, etc. but today’s students also have a myriad of internet tools at their disposal. Everything from Online poster makers, podcasts, blogs, vlogs, video games, map and time line generators, artistic tools and the list can go on and on. Weeding through all of the options can be daunting so narrowing these options down to 2 or 3 is less overwhelming and helps students decide which tool will best present their new knowledge.**

**Working with content teachers to help them break out of the power point presentation model can be challenging. This is mostly due to the teachers comfort level, so if i take on the product portion of the lesson teachers relax and tag along. I can guide students down the product creation path that ends with a much more createive and fulfilling process and product.**

**I choose the poetry portfolio lesson as an exemplar lesson because it allows students to create in many different ways. VoiceThread was an easy way to house the pieces of this project and allowed Students to create poetry in both written and spoken format. Creating spine poetry is a very tactile and kinesthetic way to write a poem and really appeals to the middle schoolers need to touch Things. It also provides them with a given set of words and phrases to choose from so it doesn’t feel like writing poetry.**

**Writing a poem about a found object also gives students a tangible starting point and removes some of the fear creating a poem from thin air.**

**Writing poetry is a by nature very creative and by doing so in non traditional ways takes some of the pressure off, makes poetry fun, and allows students to fully engage as creators.**

**It is my hope that my vision, lesson plan, and analysis demonstrate how I promote and support students as creators.**