

**IS TEACHING IN YOUR FUTURE?**



# Teaching

During this workshop we will utilize the information gathering process to provide a model for St. John's students who are considering a career in teaching. While for this workshop we have utilized the process to model the process for teaching in New Mexico, this model can also be used to plan most major changes in life, including: preparing for graduate school or travel, getting internships or moving to a new town.

Part of what we would like to emphasize is the importance of using the resources you have at the College: the Career Services office, library, faculty, staff and other students.

We are basing this process on the *Information Search Process* developed by Carol Kuhlthau. It is a holistic approach to searching for information which includes thoughts, feelings and actions. The process begins with uncertainty and anxiety due to a lack of confidence and moves into an increase of confidence as one gains knowledge and makes a commitment to a focused perspective.

The information gathering process involves:

**Initiation** – Beginning the inquiry. “What am I trying to accomplish?”

**Investigation** - Brainstorming. “What do I find personally interesting?”

**Exploration** – Exploring information. “What are my options?”

**Formulation** - Forming a focused perspective. “I’ll try this!”

**Collection** – Collecting information. “Now what do I need to know?”

**Presentation** – Preparing to present. Applications, interviews, arrangements.

**Assessment** – Assessing the process. Think about where you are now as opposed to where you were when you started the process.

As you are gathering information, please always keep in mind the importance of evaluating the information and its sources – who is the author, what is the bias, is the information verifiable and what is the timeliness of the information?

## I. Initiation - **The problem is introduced.** This is the beginning of the inquiry.

*Think about what you know and what you want to know.*

I know I want to investigate teaching as a career.

**“Am I cut out for teaching?”**

(Feelings: apprehension and uncertainty)

## II. Investigation – **Identification of general areas for investigation.**

*Brainstorm. Try on different ideas. Don't hold back. Imagine anything is possible. Editing comes later.*

**“I wonder what it would be like to teach in a public middle school or a private high school?”**

(Feelings: confusion, sometimes anxiety, brief elation after selection, anticipation)

### A. **Assessment** – *Questions*

1. **Why** do you want to teach?
2. **What** ages and subjects are you interested in working with?
  - a. Do a survey of your skills and interests.
    - i. What do you like to do?
    - ii. What are you good at?
    - iii. What have you done in the past and enjoyed?

### III. Exploration – Surface/superficial research.

*This is the time to explore, read and reflect to form a personal perspective or focus. It is the most difficult stage. You may encounter inconsistent information and begin to doubt the appropriateness of your inquiry, the adequacy of your information sources and your ability to complete the process. Remember you are exploring to find a focus, not to support a thesis at this point.*

#### **“What are my options?”**

A substantial number of people want to give up after their initial search for information. A dip in confidence accompanying this stage is natural in this process. Trust that you will get through the difficulties and come through with a sense of focus.

You’ll be locating information and evaluating relevance, reading to become informed, and reflecting on new information.

(Feelings: confusion, uncertainty, doubt, sometimes threat)

#### **A. Skimming research – listing ideas**

Be organized. Keep a record of all the places you have visited, with whom you spoke, and what responses and impressions you have received.

##### **1. Career Services office** can help you get started with local resources:

A. Ask for the **names** of those who have done something similar – faculty, staff & alumni. The Career Services office can help get you in touch with teachers in Santa Fe who you could shadow for a day.

B. **After school tutoring programs (See Appendix A)**

C. **Summer programs – paid or unpaid (See Appendix B)**

D. **Internships – the Ariel program or others (See Appendix B)**

E. Read **career assessment literature** in the Career Services library (See Appendix C)

#### **Transition**

i. Make a survey of your notes.

ii. List possible options.

iii. Choose a particular focus while discarding others or combine several themes to form one focus.

iv. Remember: no matter what you start, you can stop when it doesn’t seem right for you anymore.

### IV. Formulation – This is the most important part of the process.

#### **Resources + Time + Possibilities = Plan**

**“I would like to shadow a teacher for a day at a public middle school in Santa Fe, try tutoring in an after school tutoring program like Project Politaе and apply for an Ariel scholarship and the Breakthrough program at Santa Fe Prep for the summer.”**

(Feelings: optimism, confidence in ability to complete task)

A. Get started now & prepare for the summer

**Resources** – Now that you know your options, consider the following:

1. Experience/qualifications – What do you have to offer?

2. Do you need to be making money or can you volunteer?

3. Transportation – how will you get to the students?

**Time** – What options best fit your schedule?

## V. Collection - Gather information that defines and supports your focus.

*Your focus is further clarified as connections and extensions are made from the information you gather. Your narrative takes shape.*

(Feelings: realization of extensive work to be done, confidence in ability to complete task, increased interest)

### A. Establish contact

1. Using the names from the Career Services office, contact teachers in Santa Fe to set up an appointment to visit their classes. See **Appendix D** for questions to use when talking to teachers.
2. Visit a Project Polita meeting to learn how to start tutoring students in town.

### B. Begin applications

1. For the Ariel scholarship
2. For Breakthrough

### C. Prepare your resume

1. Career Services will help you with this
2. Testing & Education Reference Center  
<http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/admin/SF/library/online.shtml>

## VI. Presentation & Assessment

### **Complete the narrative and present.**

As you try each new thing, keep a journal of your reactions to it. Pay attention to what works for you and what doesn't. Talk with other teachers and student tutors about your experiences. This will help when you're ready to leave St. John's and are considering whether you want to pursue any of the sorts of teaching/tutoring you tried while you were a student.

Think about where you are now as opposed to where you were when you started.

Remember – all of the information you get from these experiences can be useful. You're using this time to figure out if teaching is a career you wish to pursue. Finding out now that it's not is just as useful as learning that you would love to teach.

(Feelings: sense of relief, sometimes satisfaction & accomplishment, sometimes disappointment)

### **Source:**

Kuhlthau, Carol Collier (Fall 1989). Information Search Process: A Summary of Research and Implications for School Library Media Programs. SLMQ, 18 (1)

# Appendix A

## Tutoring and After School Programs

### Volunteer:

**Citizen Schools** is a national educational initiative with programs in Santa Fe visit the website to learn more: [www.citizenschools.org/volunteer](http://www.citizenschools.org/volunteer) De Vargas Middle School is one school with a program that allows you to choose what you teach during a weekly 90-minute learning project. Call Michelle Vignery, De Vargas Campus Director at 505-310-3213 for more information.

**Capshaw Middle School** needs math tutors. Dr. Howard Shapiro is the contact person for setting up volunteering at 660-2442. Capshaw is on Zia Road and a car or bike is required to reach the school.

**Literacy Volunteers of Santa Fe** for those interested in teaching adults to read (our Basic Literacy or BL program) or English as a Second Language (ESL), LVSF will be conducting Tutor Training classes throughout the year. As a tutor we ask that you commit to tutoring individual or groups of students for one year. The ESL training (you do not need to speak Spanish or any other foreign language) involves a commitment of 20 hours on the following dates. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.sfccnm.edu/literacy/>

**The Santa Fe Community Foundation** has an extensive list of education related volunteering visit their site to see their *Volunteer Guide*: <http://www.santafecf.org/resources/volunteers.php>

Nearly all public schools in Santa Fe need tutoring help, visit the **Santa Fe Public School District** web page to find a school that interests you: <http://www.sfps.k12.nm.us/education/district/district.php?sectionid=1>

**Search** for tutoring positions that match your interests here:  
<http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/index.jsp?r=msa&l=87594%2C>

### Paid:

**Atalaya Elementary School** hires tutors for their after school program. The program provides homework tutoring, chess, cooperative play, sports and rec activities, arts and crafts, and healthy snacks for K through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The program pays \$10 per hour. Atalaya is in walking distance from St. John's. Contact Michelle Rosen at 316-6699.

The **ENLACE GEAR UP Collaborative at the Santa Fe Community College** is working in partnership with the Santa Fe Public Schools to deliver a national college preparatory program for middle and high school students called Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID).

*The ideal candidate will be 18-28 years old and will be strong in math (Pre- Algebra, Algebra I, II, Geometry, and Calculus), science (Biology and Chemistry) and/or English.*

For more information contact: Kristen Krell at [kkrell@sfccnm.edu](mailto:kkrell@sfccnm.edu) or 428-1714

**The Simon Family Foundation** each year selects promising students from local high schools and they provide them with support and assistance in preparing to attend college. The salary for these jobs is \$15/hour.

If you would like to apply for one of these jobs, send a letter of interest to Mike Ammerman at [mjammerman@gmail.com](mailto:mjammerman@gmail.com). Be sure to tell him why you are interested in being a tutor and mention any previous experience that you have working with young people and/or tutoring.

## **Other tutoring organizations in Santa Fe:**

### **Big Sky Learning**

(505) 466-3856 2 N Chamisa Dr # H  
Santa Fe, NM

### **Children's Learning Technology**

(505) 983-6829  
Santa Fe, NM

### **In Sight Tutoring**

(505) 471-7511 551 W Cordova Rd # 228  
Santa Fe, NM

### **Insight Press & Tutoring**

(505) 471-7511 2155 Candelero St  
Santa Fe, NM

### **Kune, Beverly - Creative Alternatives**

(505) 988-4816 1442 S Saint Francis Dr # C  
Santa Fe, NM

### **Santa Fe Kumon Math & Reading**

(505) 466-4522 19 Mova Lp  
Santa Fe, NM

### **Sylvan Learning Center**

(505) 438-4838 720 Saint Michaels Dr # A  
Santa Fe, NM

### **Tortuga Tutorial Learning Center**

(505) 988-4864 1439 Miracerros Ln S  
Santa Fe, NM

### **Treetop Tutoring**

(505) 670-5669  
Santa Fe, NM

## Appendix B

### New Mexico Related:

**Teach New Mexico** site, supported by the Educator Quality Division at the New Mexico Public Education Department. Resources for new and experienced teachers looking to work in New Mexico.

<http://www.teachnm.org/index.html>

**New Mexico REAP** is a free service designed to help educators find new and exciting teaching jobs, administrative jobs and other related service positions in New Mexico. Through REAP, you can find employment from 950 school districts and private schools nationwide.

<http://www.nmreap.net/>

**New Mexico Teacher Assessments** page, all the information you need to take the tests.

<http://www.nmta.nesinc.com/>

**New Mexico Public Education Department**, variety of resources for teachers and job hunters.

<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/>

### Degree Programs/Certifications in New Mexico:

**Santa Fe Community College**-go to the Teacher Education Department.

<http://www.sfccnm.edu/about/schools>

**College of Santa Fe**

<http://www.csf.edu/academics/education/overview>

**University of New Mexico**

<http://coe.unm.edu/COEHome/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

### Teaching Opportunities/Job Banks:

**The Breakthrough Collaborative** is a national non-profit that increases educational opportunity for high-potential, low-income middle school students and inspires outstanding college and high school students to pursue careers in education. The position is volunteer with a stipend and living expenses provided. Many Johnnies have participated in Breakthrough.

<http://www.breakthroughcollaborative.org/>

**Teach for America** is a national program that provides a stipend for teachers.

<http://www.teachforamerica.org/>

**The Mississippi Teacher Corps** is a two-year program, similar to the Peace Corps, that recruits college graduates to teach in the Mississippi Delta. The program is designed for non-education majors and offers a host of benefits.

<http://www.olemiss.edu/programs/mtc/>

**Great Hearts Academies** is a non-profit charter school management organization dedicated to improving public education in the Phoenix metropolitan area by developing a network of preparatory academies (grades 6 to 12). Many Johnnies have taught with Great Hearts.

<http://www.greatheartsaz.org/>

Founded in 1994, **Atheneum** is an independent co-educational college preparatory school in Anchorage, Alaska. Atheneum offers a challenging academic program for students from grades 6 thru 12. The program aims to engage students with the most distinguished minds of civilization through the study of great texts. Atheneum was founded by Johnnies.

<http://www.atheneum.org/>

Nova Classical Academy offers learners a challenging K-12 college preparatory education in the classical tradition of Grammar, Logic and Rhetoric as the structure of every discipline.

<http://www.novaclassical.org/index.html>

**The Great Books Program** offers information on schools that participate in the program.

<http://www.greatbooksprogram.org/>

The purpose of **The Putney School Intern Program** is to prepare young people for careers in teaching. To be eligible, candidates must have completed an undergraduate degree in the liberal arts and have a strong desire to enter the teaching profession. Teaching internships are normally offered one or more of the following disciplines in any given year: English, history, mathematics, science, technology, languages, arts. In addition to housing, meals are provided in the main dining room while school is in session. Interns also receive medical insurance and will receive a stipend of \$18,000 for the year.

<http://www.putneyschool.org/resources/intern.html>

**Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's** search engine of California outdoor and environmental education jobs.

<http://www.aeoe.org/jobs/index.html>

**Council for American Private Education** offers a variety of private school job banks.

<http://www.capenet.org/teach.html>

Search engine for teaching jobs at **boarding schools**. <http://www.boardingschoolreview.com/boarding-school-jobs.php>

Search engine for jobs at **independent schools in New England**.

<http://www.aisne.org/employment/employment.asp>

### **Useful General Teaching Websites:**

**The University of Kentucky's** website that consolidates the teacher certification requirements for the 50 states. It also has job search engine.

<http://www.uky.edu/Education/TEP/usacert.html>

Free resources for teachers.

<http://www.free.ed.gov/>

**Paideia Schools**—schools based on the philosophy of M. Adler.

<http://www.paideia.org/content.php/training/schlsalp.htm> is a list of the schools themselves, and

<http://www.paideia.org/content.php/system/index.htm> is the homepage for the National Paideia Center.

**Waldorf**—info about the Waldorf philosophy: <http://www.awsna.org/education-aboutwaled.html>; and a list of nationwide Waldorf schools: <http://www.members.awsna.org/Public/SchoolListPage.aspx>

**Montessori**—index of schools which teach using the methods of Dr. Montessori: <http://www.montessori.edu/>

**National Great Books Curriculum**—a coalition dedicated to introducing Great Books programs into modern education. Here's a list of contacts at a number of community colleges <http://www.nationalgreatbooks.com/whoweare/partners.asp>, and here's the main webpage: <http://www.nationalgreatbooks.com/>

**National Association of Independent Schools**  
[www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)

**Office of Overseas Schools-U.S. Department of State**  
<http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/>

**Teaching in International Schools Overseas-U.S. Department of State**  
<http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/c16899.htm>

**Directory of Schools-U.S. Department of State**  
<http://www.state.gov/m/a/os/c16483.htm>

**Community Colleges with Great Books Curriculum:**

Wilbur Wright Community College

<http://wright.ccc.edu/>

Arapahoe Community College

<http://www.arapahoe.edu/>

Oakton Community College

<http://www.oakton.edu/>

Santa Barbara City College

<http://www.sbccc.edu/>

Harold Washington College

<http://hwashington.ccc.edu/>

## **Appendix C**

### **Career Services Library Books on Teaching:**

*The Unauthorized Teacher's Survival Guide 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*  
Jack Warner and Clyde Bryan with Diane Warner

*Inside Secrets of Finding a Teaching Job 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*  
Jack Warner and Clyde Bryan with Diane Warner

*The First Year of Teaching: Real World Stories from America's Teachers*  
Edited by Pearl Rock Kane

*The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*  
Parker J. Palmer

*College Teaching Abroad: A Handbook of Strategies for Successful Cross-Cultural Exchanges*  
Pamela Gale George

*Resumes for Education Careers*  
The Editors of VGM Career Horizons

*101 Grade A Resumes for Teachers 3rd Edition*  
Barron's

*Teaching English Overseas: A Job Guide for Americans & Canadians*  
Jeff Mohamed

*Teaching English Abroad*  
Susan Griffith

## Appendix D

### Questions for interviews – Teaching Workshop

Name of Interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Were you an undergraduate or graduate student at St. John's? Both?
2. When did you graduate?
3. At what point in your life did you realize you wanted to be a teacher?

Why?

4. What was your first teaching position?
5. Please describe your current teaching position (if different from #4).
6. Did it require education or training beyond what you received at St. Johns?  
Details:

7. What sort of experience is good to have when looking for a teaching position like yours?

8. How do you recommend looking for a teaching position?

9. Do you use/recommend any professional organizations or unions?

10. Would you please share any advice/tips concerning how St. John's students can best prepare for a teaching career?

11. Do you have anything further to add?

