



The Peninsula School

A School in association with the
Anglican Church of Australia

Wooralla Drive Mt. Eliza Vic 3930
ABN 28 004 451 192
www.tps.vic.edu.au
E/ peninsula@tps.vic.edu.au
F/ 03 9787 7646
T/ 03 9788 7777

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Dear Darren

I hope the following reflection gives you some indication of the success with which your seminar was received by The Peninsula School students.

The students had not been given any indication of what to expect from the seminar and, as a result, the element of surprise worked wonders. The pumping music which met their entrance to the venue ensured they were about to encounter a new experience. Instantly they were open and ready for anything which contrasted so sharply with the regime of school life.

Responses to the music did not vary. All participants including staff were impressed by its impact and appreciated its mood changing effect. Although not the personal or private choice of all participants it was agreed that it was perfectly suited to the session.

All students were positive about the experience and enjoyed the physical nature of the morning. They were able to 'let off steam' without impinging on anyone else's personal space. That is group work and presentations were kept to a minimum and students were able to reflect on themselves without being worried about how they were perceived by others. Students enjoyed the participation because they felt your contribution and energy was generous. That is they were not being told what to do but they were being invited to join in. Many people made comment about the level of organisation and preparation you had committed to the seminar. There was a general feeling amongst the group that they were in safe hands. The students often tire of the litany of personal anecdotes flung around by speakers whose authenticity is often questioned by the young and cynical. Hence the students enjoyed you offering your energy but not your life story.

Both boys and girls alike felt comfortable in the environment. At no time did either of the sexes feel intimidated. They appreciated the equality of participation. They also commented on walking away from the seminar with some practical skills which may have appeared fun but also had a practical and important purpose for VCE students.

A student like Jake craves a physical outlet in everything he undertakes. He loves school but rules do not sit well with him. He has experienced some extraordinary hardships in his life and I think this seminar allowed him to anchor his thoughts, establish some new goals, consolidate his values and determine for himself a career path where he can burn off energy by helping other young people as a youth worker.

Darren thank you for allowing our students to enjoy this unique experience.

Cheers

Marg. Hopkins

