



An Odyssey through the Internet: Using Portals to Foster Global Citizenship

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What are Portals?



Portals at:
Vanderbilt University, Nashville

Zaatari Refugee Camp, Jordan

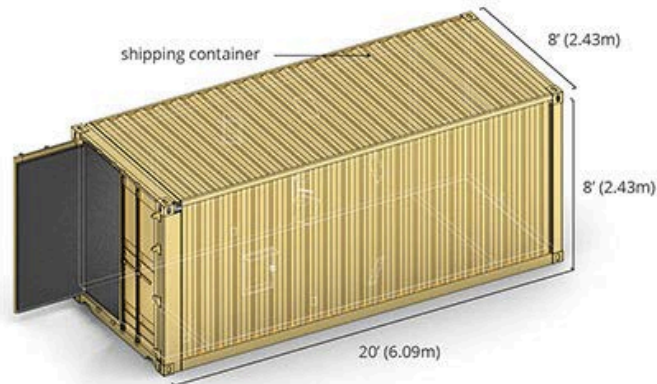
The European Parliament, Brussels



Afghanistan



shipping container



Honduras



Iraq



Mexico
Rwanda
Iran
Gaza etc...



Milwaukee

Portal at Greenwich Academy, Fall 2016





Typical discussion prompt:

“What would make today a good day for you?”



Portal at Harsham Camp, Erbil, Iraq

Harsham Camp is in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

It houses 1500 internally displaced Iraqis who fled their home in Mosul when Isis took over.



Harsham Camp, Erbil, Iraq



“Although I had brainstormed a few questions the night before, I really felt like there was no way to prepare for a conversation with someone from across the world that just wants to go home...”



The Erbil Portal is sponsored by UNICEF.



“I think the portal helped reaffirm my belief that refugees should be treated like unique individuals whose situations aren't all the same.”

“The kids asked numerous times how they could grow up to be successful like us, but I wanted to say to them how much more successful they are than I. They have survived such hardship and turmoil that I cannot imagine being in their position.”



“[A] boy asked what we think about Iraq, and I just felt so bad that I didn’t really know anything positive about the country... All we hear are negative things about Iraq like war, terrorists, and bombs. His question made me realize how the media changes our perceptions of Iraq... I was angry with myself for not knowing how to answer his question.”

Portal in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



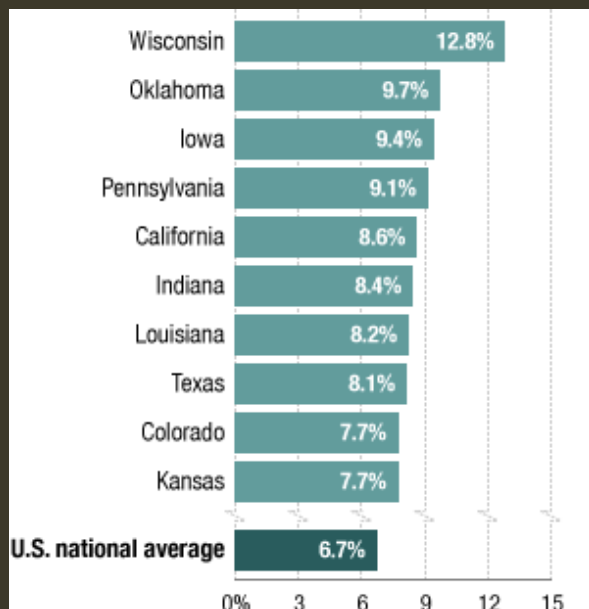
Located near the Amani Gardens in zip code 53206



MILWAUKEE 53206

A documentary that chronicles the lives of those affected by incarceration in America's most incarcerated zip code.

milwaukee53206.com



By age 30-36, 62% of men in the 53206 zip code have spent time in a correctional facility.*

Rates of black male incarceration by state, 2012 (left).

Source: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Portals – Criminal Justice



The Milwaukee Portal along with those in Newark, Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and Mission, Texas were established to discuss issues of criminal justice and police/community relations.

A MacArthur Foundation grant supports this initiative.

Left: Newark Portal. Right: Chicago

Milwaukee 53206



Greenwich – Milwaukee Talent Show



Students at GA and in Milwaukee held a 3 hour talent show in November.

The acts included Chinese yo-yo, Gospel Choir, rap, drill team, spoken word, and poetry.

Youth Rising Up Radio

Greenwich &
Milwaukee Edition



Greenwich responses to Milwaukee

Dear Lewis,

Thank you for sharing yourself with us for 20 minutes today. It was so interesting to see the parallels and the differences in your community and ours. I loved hearing about the music and dance in Milwaukee, because I think it is something that is relatable no matter what city you're in. I would love to know more about what we in Greenwich can do to better our community, and what guidance you can give, as a community activist. I would also love to see how we could help your efforts in Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

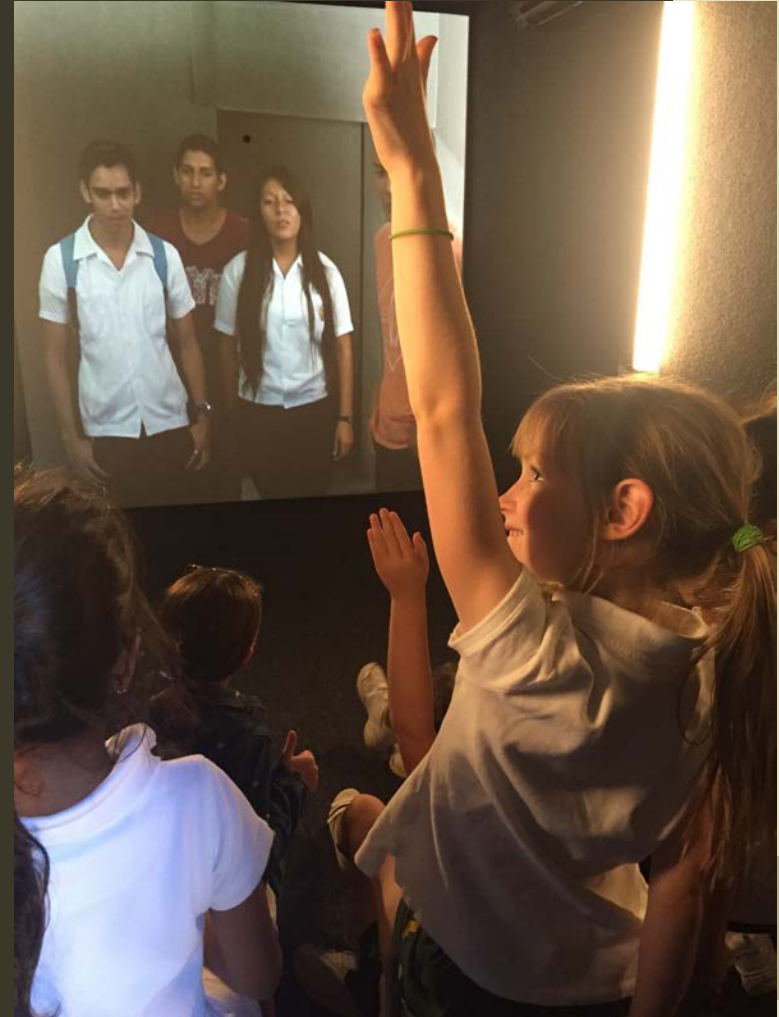
[Redacted Signature]

Lewis said a very powerful quote that resonated with me: "go on ~~per~~ vacation and leave on probation". He was referring to the perception of Milwaukee from people who don't live in the area. He described how he wasn't proud of the phrase and he is doing a lot to help their community turn around this stereotypical perception. Towards the end of the Portal visit Lewis brought in a group of pre-school students and I was struck by their optimism and innocence in light of recent events in their community. I hope that through the Portal and other community projects the children that we met don't grow up with that phrase still defining their community. Lewis said crime decreased by 21% since the Portal installation ~~started~~ and the community takes great pride in it. I think the future is looking ~~very~~ bright for Milwaukee and ~~some~~ future generations. "

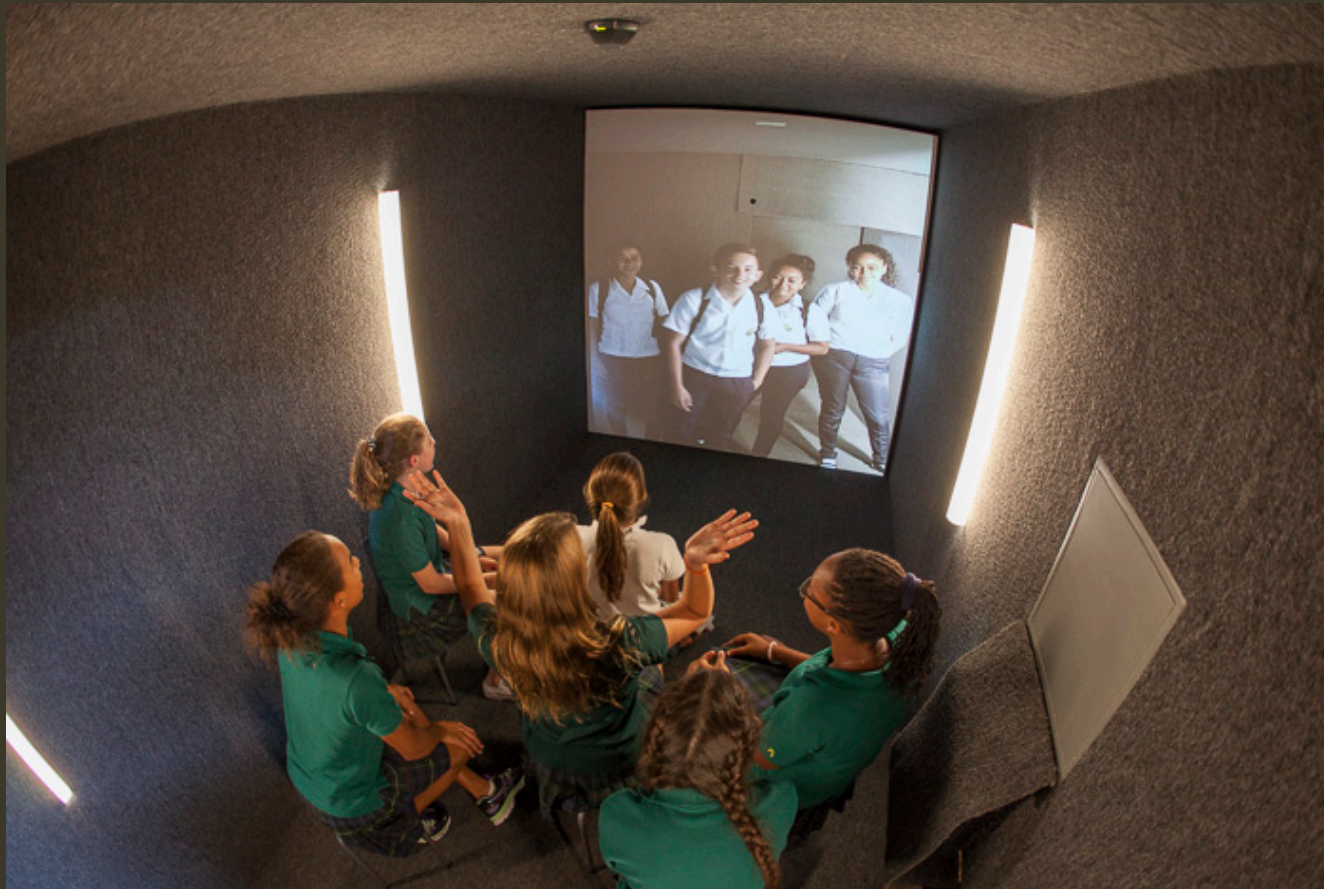
Portal in El Progreso, Honduras



The Honduras Portal is housed in a school called Instituto Oficial Perla del Ulúa and supported by OYE, Organization for Youth Empowerment



Connecting to Honduras



“...we laughed so much. I thought it would be serious and silent, but we spent more time laughing than talking.”



Palmer "I sang Buenos Dias."

Keen "I learned they have pet turtles."

Camille "I learned they walk 10 minutes to school."

Cece "I learned how to say 'farm' in Spanish." "Granja"

Heather "We shared our favorite ice cream flavor."

The Warriors Zulu Nation, hip-hop group



Greenwich Academy students meet The Warriors Zulu Nation, a youth-led organization in Honduras that reaches at-risk kids through hip hop.

Culinary students and kitchen staff



Portal in Isfahan, Iran



Portal Reflection

Name: Ela Shaftei

Grade: 6

Teacher at the portal with you: Ms. Henderson

Location connected with: Iran

1) How are you feeling as you come out of the portal?

I feel very good about learning about
another country.

2) What are you thinking about as you come out of the portal?

How similar & different our countries/
culture are.

3) What's one new or surprising thing you learned in the portal?

That Anna & Eddie both liked sheep meat
as their favorite food, Anna also spoke English
& Eddie didn't, Eddie was a painter & Anna
works in a studio.



Portal in Gaza City



The Universality of the Dab



A recent “dab-off”
between Gaza City and
Rye, NY

Portal in Herat, Afghanistan



The Herat Portal is located at a the Hariwa Institute of Higher Education

Portal Reflection

Name: Amanda Park

Grade: 6

Teacher at the portal with you: Ms. Jameises & Ms. Henderson

Location connected with: Afghanistan

1) How are you feeling as you come out of the portal?

As I came out of the portal I felt amazed because it was able to connect us to someone in a different part of the world

2) What are you thinking about as you come out of the portal?

I was thinking about how the person's life and the country were very different from what I thought it would be

3) What's one new or surprising thing you learned in the portal?

One new thing I learned in the portal was that people in Afghanistan have to be married to move out of their parents house.

Fostering Global Citizenship

Portals encourage students to:

- Beware of stereotypes
- See the common humanity of people
- Recognize and appreciate cultural diversity
- Recognize a different scale of values in other cultures
- Appreciate the interrelationship between language and culture
- Develop human empathy and active concern for other people
- Effectively communicate and engage with people around the world

Portals have fostered dialogue about:

- Criminal justice
- Religion and culture
- The refugee crisis
- Government and politics
- Art, music, literature, poetry ...

Briefing and Debriefing: GA Portal Lab



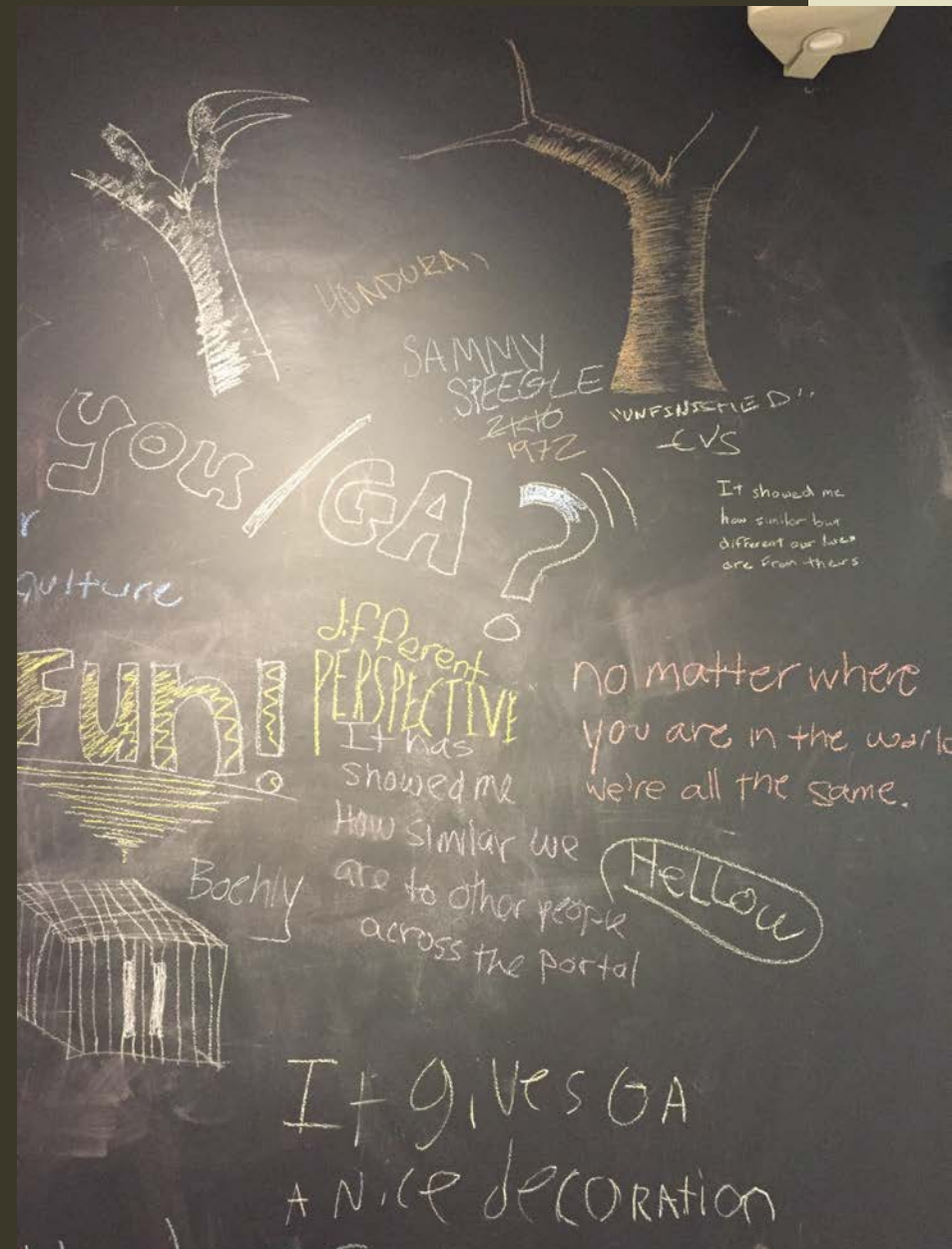
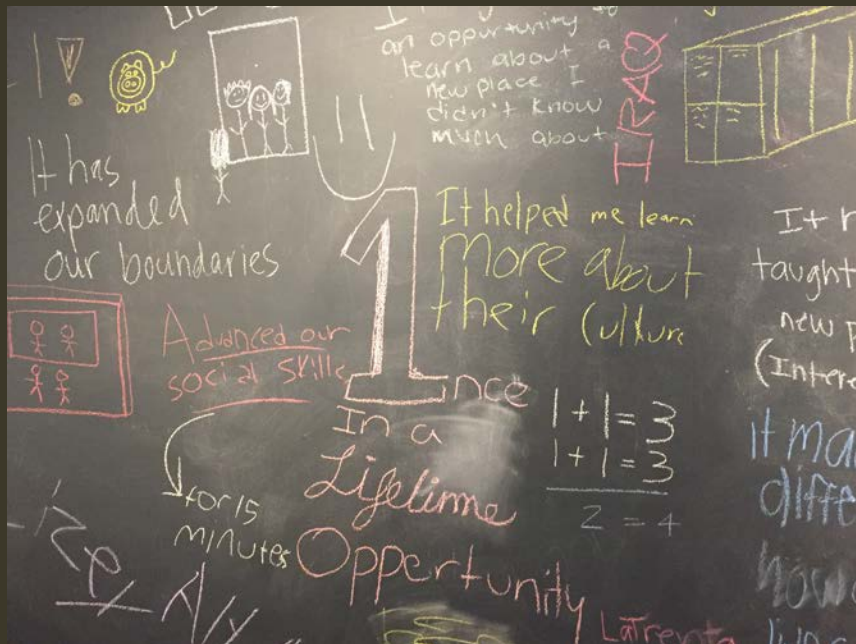
Mapping project by 5th graders

Poetry Reading in the Portal Lab



GA Portal Lab

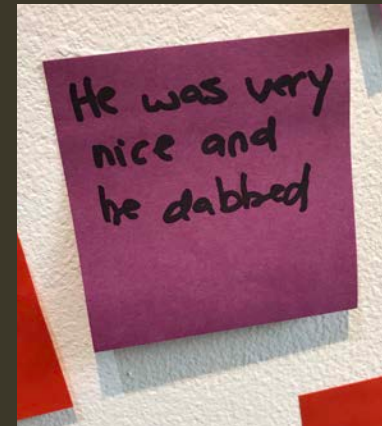
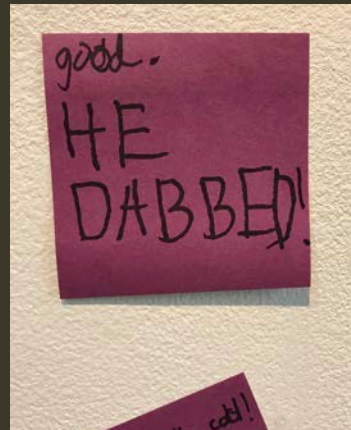
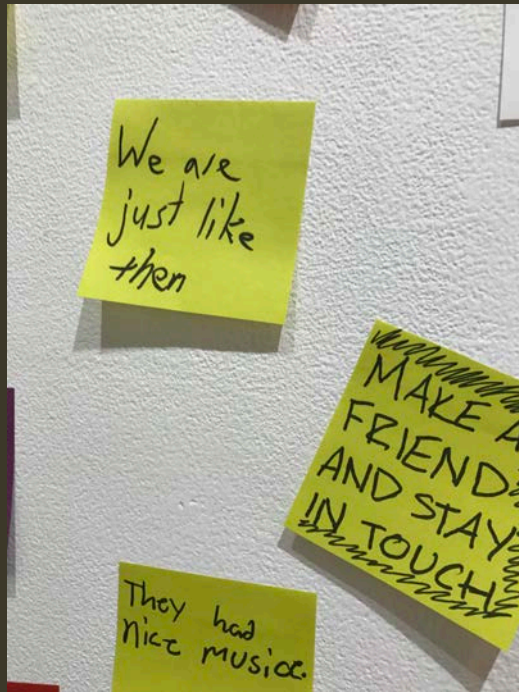
Chalk Response Wall



Portal Lab Mission, Texas



Portal Response Wall in Rye, NY



Portal Screen



President Obama in Silicon Valley speaking with young entrepreneurs in Erbil, Seoul, London and Mexico City.

Next steps

- European Parliament
- Portal in a Prison
- Portal Room at Greenwich Academy
- Your school?

