

Chapter 19: Engaging and Amplifying Community Voices: An Interview Assignment Sequence

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1. “Don’t Be the One That’s the Life Sucker” by Austin Myers

Transcript

Police Chief Mike Norman: When I was in high school, I had an earth science and a geology teacher that was awesome. That really made me think, “He made it fun, I want to make it fun. I want to make it fun for those students to learn.” That’s the most fun I had in class, you know, was with him.

Went to ISU, actually, and began studying to be a secondary education teacher, and as it come closer to the time to graduate, teacher's positions were being cut back, and I was concerned that I wasn’t going to have any place to go when I left college when I graduated, and so I stayed a little extra longer and followed up the criminology side of it and got my degree in criminology.

My father said, when I actually got hired on and sworn in, he said, “I just want you to remember one thing and that is, treat people how you want to be treated.” That was almost 24 years ago, you know, and I still hold that true. People do bad things, but I think down in their heart people are inherently good-natured, they want to do what’s right. You know, here, when I was asked to be Chief, I told everybody, I had a meeting with the entire department, that I want things to be positive. If you don't have anything positive to say, try to *make* something of that positive, and bring that to the table. Don’t be the one that’s the life sucker, you know? Because this job is tough enough, the things you see, let’s not make it tough on ourselves.