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### City of Cortland

Kevin Franco

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# **Explore the City** of Cortland!

By: Kevin Franco Professor: Jeremy Zhe-Heimerman



https://www2.cortland.edu/visitors-guide/

## Goals

My topic I chose to teach my class was exploring the city of Cortland. The reason why I chose this topic is because my "research" has come from my own experience, as well as being a SUNY Cortland tour guide. What college offers outside of classes are opportunities to explore, mingle, and overall have a super enjoyable time here at SUNY Cortland. While obviously prioritizing academics and health, I made it a point that students should be able to confidently socialize all across the city of Cortland, both on and off campus. When students are able to socialize with friends on and off campus, this can lead to academic well being and overall improvements to students' mental health<sub>1</sub>. The purpose of my lesson was to remind students of happening locations on campus, and bring awareness to maybe a few off campus locations; And how the act of exploring can help grow a social life catered to college life.

## **Methods**

#### **Materials and Activities Used**

- Short paper asking students to list favorable/known locations on and off campus.
- 2. An online game of Jeopardy with categories such as on campus, off campus, field trip destinations, and restaurants.

#### **Strategies to Engage Students**

- 1. An inclusive think-pair-share conversation after completing the worksheet.
- 2. Jeopardy game involved two teams of students who would take turns and ask each other for assistance.

# **Active Learning Techniques**

- 1. Before handing out the worksheet, I asked students who had a car, and who did not, just to see where students stood on their own opinions on transportation at college.
- 2. When asking students for their one favorite on and off campus locations to get a better understanding of the demographic of our students.
- 3. During the game, if there was a location there wasn't known, I would open a google maps image of said location.
- 4. At the end of class, I used the fact that I chose many locations that students may be unfamiliar with to prove that there is much to do in our city!
- 5. Some students were familiar with the local 1890 House, which was one of the locations in the game; This was where I touched base and provided extra information on the museum, such as its history and transformation into a museum<sub>2</sub>.

# **Worksheet-Discussion**

The City of Cortland!

| List your three favorite On Campus locations to have fun at!                |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
|   | -                               |
| List your three favorite Off-Campus locations to have fun at!               | -                               |
|   | -                               |
| Is there somewhere or something that you feel that Cortland could have to m | ake it more interesting or fun? |
|   | -                               |

# **Jeopardy Template**

| On Campus        | Off Campus   | Restaurants  | Field Trip<br>Destinations |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 100              | 100          | 100          | 100                        |
| 200              | 200          | 200          | 200                        |
| 300              | 300          | 300          | 300                        |
| 400              | 400          | 400          | 400                        |
| 500              | 500          | 500          | 500                        |
| M<br>E<br>N<br>U | Team 1 0 + - | Team 2 0 + - |                            |

## **Student Facilitator Reflection**

At the end of class, I truly believed that my students both enjoyed the lesson as well as learned something new about the city of Cortland. From seeing them actively discuss and share thoughts to laughing and yelling at each other for getting questions wrong during the game of Jeopardy, student engagement was at one hundred percent. As for my facilitation of discussion in the beginning of class, I was able to effectively communicate my ideas and ask students to build upon their own. For the game itself, I essentially acted as a game show host, making jokes and running the game smoothly. Being an education major, I found the skills of public speaking, group discussion, and classroom activity came to me as a second nature.

# **Citations**

- "Community, Access, and Thriving: Theory-based Approaches to Supporting First-Year Transitions", Bryce
   Bunting, Brigham Young University, Dallin Young, University of South Carolina, 2018
- 2. https://the1890house.org/mission-history/