



To Whom it May Concern,

Mr. Stephen Kozan and Mr. Tony Maulfair visited Passaic County Technical Institute (PCTI) in Wayne, New Jersey a few days before the Christmas break of 2018. I mention the time because most people can imagine how difficult it is to engage students when they are ready to leave for the holidays; this is particularly true of high school students. So, I have to admit, that when the media specialist informed me of the scheduled visit, I feared it would not be the best time.

However, I am pleased to say that all skepticism regarding the presentation left my mind the minute I met Mr. Kozan and Mr. Maulfair. From the beginning they were enthusiastic and informative. My first impression when I saw their set-up was a positive one. They had large colorful banners displaying the different covers of their published books and were prepared with projectors to display illustrations; they had sketches of previous artwork, and multiple copies of their works for students to see.

The presentation was well-paced with the introduction focusing on the author's upbringing, followed by career-choices, tips on how to become a writer, as well as, information on how to create a publishing company. Once students learned about the presenter's background, they engaged in a quick exercise in which they selected random animal body parts, and Mr. Maulfair drew them in order to create a fictional creature based on the dictation of students. This exercise was of particular interest to students because they were eager to see this mythical creature.

Another interesting activity consisted of dividing students into two groups. One group, the graphic design group, stayed with Mr. Maulfair to create sketches. The second, creative writing group, listened to a short story written by Mr. Kozan earlier in his career, along with other stories written by students he met through his presentations at various school districts. Students in both groups were motivated and inspired to sketch and write because Mr. Kozan made the presentation interesting.

At the end of the day, it was evident to those of us present that the presentation was a success. Students remained engaged throughout the entire time, and they were willing to participate. The following day, many students continued the discussion regarding the presentation in class; this was a clear sign that they enjoyed themselves. For all of these reasons, I can say that the presentation exceeded my expectations. It was a great pleasure having Mr. Kozan and Mr. Maulfair as our guest speakers. We hope they return.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Vargas
English Teacher
Passaic County Technical Institute