



## **Science in Tomorrow's Classroom: Students Teaching Students**

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Students are entering college increasingly unable to communicate ideas or relay accurate information to others. During my elective course about oceanography, I have my juniors and seniors choose a topic that they will then teach 5th graders at the Intermediate School.

The United States has an initiative for new science standards, Next Gen Science Standards (NGSS) have been developed to promote science education. New York State has adopted these standards and has made a few changes to incorporate our state standards. These New York State Learning Science Standards (NYSLSS). Alden High School has also an initiative going on known as STAR- S-Skills, T-Task, A- Audience, R-Reach. As I began developing my lessons, I wanted to incorporate the R- Reach portion of the initiative. What better way for a student to learn a topic, make them teach it, students reach new audiences. They worked out of their comfort zone to make this happen. Students in my oceanography class elective, have been learning about properties of water, the sea floor and its features and interactions, as well as the different species found in the oceans. My students were in groups of 4 or 5, they then worked with groups of 5th graders. Students created lessons based on their comfort level. Students established objectives for the topic and then worked through a lesson plan that would provide the best way to teach the topic, including a hands-on activity. After many changes and practicing these 11th and 12th grade students were ready to engage themselves as teachers of a specific topic.

One of the hardest things for teachers to do is give up control of the learning, while it was a definite learning experience for me; I believe it was an even greater learning experience for my students. Not only did they get a taste of what it is like to teach, they got to step on of their comfort zone in a controlled environment. Over all the experience was a very positive one that I plan on using with my students over again.