



Bringing the Camino to the Classroom

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At the end of my two-week walk to Santiago de Compostela, I got my passport stamped, and the volunteer who checked my passport asked “How are you going to bring the Camino into the rest of your life?” I started thinking immediately about the classroom and ways to bring some of the transformative experiences – and the rich metaphor of journey as life – to my learners. While I still imagine more complex ways to make that happen, in the meantime, I have found two more modest strategies. The first is in a research methods course that I have taught by contract grading for the past few years: I imported the idea of the Camino “Credential,” a passport (with stickers) that marks the various stops on the journey. And in a second class, I incorporated a trail walk-and-talk as a part of the class time experience. Both allowed us to incorporate something a little playful into our learning, and in the second, we were able to move beyond the classroom and to connect the student experience to the ubiquitous journey metaphor. After I outline my plan and experience of each innovation, participants will be asked to imagine ways to adapt the Camino experience to their own disciplines.

References