

ASCD Empower17

(Lorena Rodriguez, Zindya Guerrero-Ruiz, and Sofia Dominguez attended)

The conference was fascinating and truly empowering!

After your recommendation, I checked Maya's poems and her book *Letter to my Daughter* is in my wish list. I bought 3 books *Start Right Now*, *Launch* and *Teach Like a Pirate* (signed by the author!!) He and his wife were there and we had the opportunity to briefly talk about teaching and leading like pirates.

My big take away was getting familiar with the Edcamp model, listening to its pros and cons from educators that have participated. I heard that usually first year participants love it because it is so different from the traditional way we have PDs. Edcamps are participant driven, engaging, voluntarily and reach out to a broad community of educators using social media. One of the cons was that after rich conversations some participants felt "...Now What?" that they did not have an action plan to address different students' needs. In other words, they wanted to leave the day with a concrete action plan and that hasn't been the case. I had the opportunity to participate in a learning lab that followed the EdCamp model. We tried to turn learning into action by not only having conversations about learning but also aiming to solve and redefine student success.

I also enjoy learning about *Before-During and After* instruction strategies to routinely embed formative assessments in all phases of instruction to not just measure students' progress, but also to give them feedback and adjust instruction to provide more meaningful learning opportunities.

Thanks for the wonderful learning experience!!

-Zindya Guerrero-Ruiz, Dual Language Coach