

ROBERT EDWARD WOOD

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PHILOSOPHY

As a teacher, I have the responsibility to be mindful of issues of the world, and to inspire my students to do the same. Travel is the best way to light that fire. It opens our eyes and challenges us to learn, to be a participant in the world, and to take on things that truly matter. Two times a year I take students on the train to Chicago. We go to feel the city, to ride the El, and to embrace the diversity that they can't find at home. Every Spring, for a week, I lead a group to Washington D.C. for *Close Up*, where we learn what it's really all about on Capitol Hill. Three times I've brought students along with me to Selma, Alabama to take part in the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. Each time we walked the Edmund Pettus Bridge with thousands, to honor those who sacrificed in 1965, to ensure all Americans the right to vote. In 2005 my Senior Current Issues class organized a \$2500 fundraiser for Katrina victims, then went to inner-city New Orleans and handed out books to school kids struck by the storm. In 2010 we raised over \$3000 for earthquake recovery in Haiti, saving a tuberculosis clinic and grassroots neighborhood emergency shelter through a *New York Times* reporter who was there on the ground. Even driving to Grand Rapids, to an independent film and an Ethiopian restaurant, broadens the horizons of a kid from a rural post like Oakridge; so we do that too. When circumstances won't allow students to go with me, I go for them and I bring my love for travel back into the classroom. Hopefully, in the end, I'll have inspired my students to search for the truth, wherever it leads, and I'll have encouraged them to do their best to make this a better world.

TEACHER

1991 to 2013 Social Studies Teacher - Oakridge High School

Oakridge is a high poverty district - 70% students free or reduced lunch.

Oakridge School District • 5493 East Hall Road • Muskegon, MI 49442 •

(231) 788-7300

Senior Current Issues (current global issues) - 12th grade

Government - 11th grade

Economics - 11th grade

1982 to 1987 History Teacher - John Sedgwick Junior High School

South Kitsap School District • Port Orchard, WA • (206) 876-7300

EDUCATION

- 2009 to 2011** **Western Michigan University**
M.A. in Political Science - graduated December 2011. GPA - 3.75.
Awarded the *Teaching Excellence Award* for work as GA during MA studies
and the *Z.D. Shilling Graduate Student Award* for Inspired Community Service.
- 1978 to 1980** **Michigan State University**
B.A. History 1980. GPA - 3.38. Deans List 1979.
- 1975 to 1977** **Western Michigan University**
Two years undergraduate classes. GPA - 3.73. Transferred to MSU.
Returned (2003) to earn a minor in Social Studies. Deans List: 1975, 1976,
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AUTHOR

- 1988 to 1990** **Author - *Big Ten Country*** 272 pages
Published in 1989 by William Morrow and Company, New York, NY. In 1988 I
visited all ten universities in the Big Ten Conference. I spent five days at each
campus, my visits culminating with a Saturday afternoon college football game.
At each, I interviewed dozens of people - students and alumni, band members,
bartenders, mascots, all sorts of fans - in an effort to find out just what it is that
makes Big Ten football such a great experience. **Big Ten Country** tells
that story.
- 1986 to 1988** **Author - *Dodger Dogs to Fenway Franks*** 347 pages
Published in 1988 by McGraw Hill Book Company, New York, NY. **Dodger
Dogs** evolved from a dream I'd always had to travel to all 26 Major League
baseball parks in one season. In the summer of 1985 I fulfilled that dream.
Along the way I graded each ballpark in eight separate categories. The book
combines my report cards and my memories of growing up, with a tour of the
highways and back roads of America.
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WORLD TRAVELER

I travel always as a student of the world. I backpacked six weeks in Western Europe in 1995 and in 1997 Eastern Europe and Turkey. In 2002 I spent two months in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia. In the summer of 2006 I toured for six weeks in Africa on a Fulbright Hays seminar. In July and August of 2009 I trekked through Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and the West Bank of Palestine. As for the United States; I taught in Washington State for five years and drove the country in

researching *Dodger Dogs*. In the summer of 2003 I headed South for four weeks to examine the Civil Rights Movement, and have since returned every March to Selma, Alabama to participate in the Bridge Crossing Jubilee. Every other year I bring along students. I've also been to Washington D.C. more than a dozen times. Each of these experiences I've brought back into the classroom to focus a curriculum that is based on seeing all subjects from a culturally diverse and politically active perspective.

NATIONAL HONORS IN EDUCATION

2009 James Madison Fellowship

The James Madison Foundation annually awards one K-12 teacher per state a \$26,000 fellowship for graduate study towards a MA in the fields of Education, American History, or Political Science. In 2009 I was chosen as the representative from the state of Michigan.

2006 Fulbright Hays - Morocco and Mali

In the summer of 2006 I was selected as one of 15 teachers from the USA to travel and to study in Africa at the invitation of the Fulbright Hays Program. Sponsored by the US Department of Education, the six week seminar entitled "Promoting Community Development in Morocco and Mali," was funded by the Fulbright Foundation.

2005 to 2008 - NEH - Gilder Lehrman - Annenberg Foundation

I was selected to study American History and Government for the following national seminars: **2005:** NEH - James Madison at Montpelier, VA. **2008:** NEH - Constitution & Declaration in Philadelphia. Annenberg Foundation - The 2008 Election in Philadelphia. Gilder Lehrman Foundation - Study of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2011 International Studies Association Conference in St Louis

Presented my MA Thesis *Regime Failure and Opposition Consolidation in the overthrow of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak* at the Midwest ISA conference in November.

2004 to 2006 Regional Social Studies Conferences

I have been asked by various organizations (Michigan Center for Civic Education, Michigan Council for the Social Studies, and Muskegon Area Intermediate School District) to be a facilitator of a semester long government project *A.C.T! - Action Counts Today*. The project encourages student participation in the Bill of Rights, by using the first amendment to guide them in advocating for a cause and creation of their own special interest groups.