

A Framework for Cemetery-Based Education

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When you think of
cemeteries, what
comes to mind?

Padlet Link for Resources



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Resting Places, Learning Spaces Podcast

on Apple Podcasts,
Spotify, and YouTube



Background

- In 2023, my dissertation study “Secondary Educator Approaches to Cemetery-Based Education in Florida”
 - qualitative, descriptive case study
 - how teachers utilize cemeteries as a teaching space
 - specifically for instruction in Black history
 - Participants= two educators who used historically Black cemeteries in Florida

Background

- In 2024, I expanded the study to consider work happening in other parts of the Southern United States
 - exploring how community members who work or volunteer with historically Black cemeteries invite educators and/or the community to come learn in the space
 - this expanded study adds to the knowledge base of place-based social studies education focused on cemeteries.
 - Participants= 4 new women, caring or working for space



Sweet Olive Cemetery,
Baton Rouge, LA

Whitney Plantation,
Edgard, LA

South-View Cemetery,
Atlanta, GA

Oakland Cemetery,
Atlanta, GA

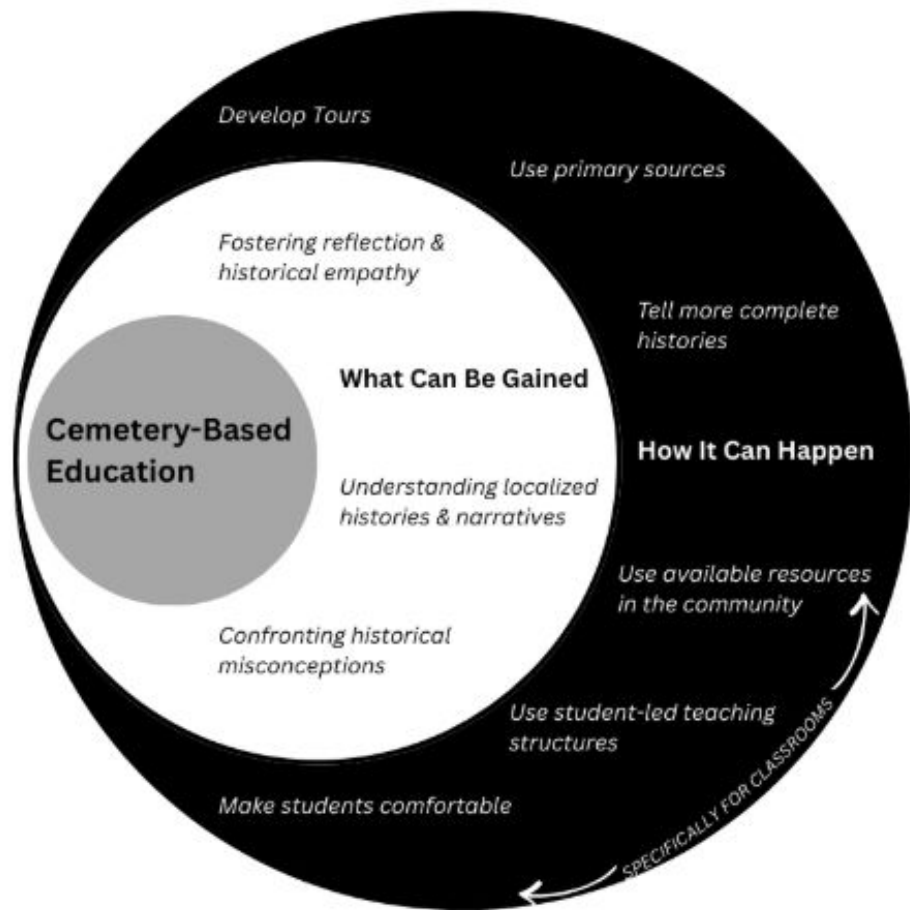
Rose Cemetery,
Tarpon Springs, FL

Lincoln Cemetery,
Gulfport, FL

Data Sources

- Other data sources include observations and archival information
- Three semi-structured interviews
 - preliminary discussion via Zoom
 - second interview was modeled after walking methodologies that Springgay and Truman (2023) employ wherein the research participant guides what the walking tour will consist of
 - third interview, the participants and I discussed through Zoom, telephone, or in-person any clarifications needed about how people learn from them in the cemetery space

Findings



Findings- What Can Be Gained

- Fostering reflection and historical empathy
 - Whitney Plantation
- Understanding localized histories and narratives.
 - Oakland and South-View Cemeteries
- Confronting historical misconceptions.
 - Whitney Plantation

Findings- How It Can Happen

- Make students comfortable
 - Lincoln Cemetery
- Use student-led teaching and learning structures
 - Lincoln Cemetery
- Use available resources in the community.
 - Lincoln Cemetery
 - Whitney Plantation

Findings- How It Can Happen

- Tell more complete Black histories.
- Use primary sources.
 - Whitney Plantation
- Develop tours
 - Whitney Plantation
 - Oakland, South-View, and Lincoln cemeteries.

Conclusion

- These spaces are not only places of remembrance, but also powerful sites of learning.
- Cemeteries bring history to life, challenge dominant narratives, and engage students in meaningful ways through reflection, localized storytelling, and critical inquiry.
- These spaces provide a dynamic alternative to traditional social studies education.



Q&A Segment



Keep in Touch

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