

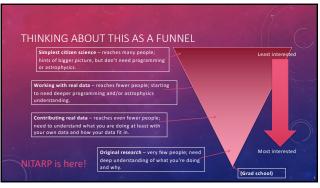


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DATA IN THE CLASSROOM Original research, professional quality new or archival data Each is valid and worthy and important; each has a different footprint and reaches a different
audience of educators and students and the public. ...But the last bin is kind of...empty. Reaches fewest people, requires most of participants, and is the most intense for participants.

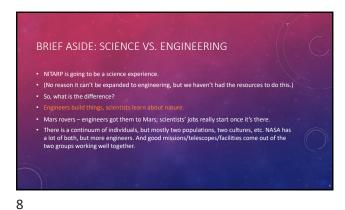
NITARP IS HERE...

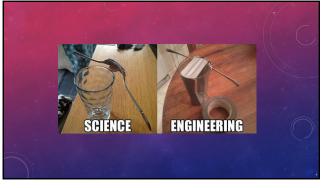


WHAT IS NITARP? NASA/IPAC Teacher Archive Research Project. (IPAC is where I work at Caltech; it has operations centers and archives for several missions/telescopes.) NITARP has been going since 2005. 2005-08, called the Spitzer Research Program for Teachers and Students. Renamed in 2009. Goal is (and was) to give educators an authentic research experience using real astronomical data and tools. Educators then turn around and carry this experience into the classroom and beyond.

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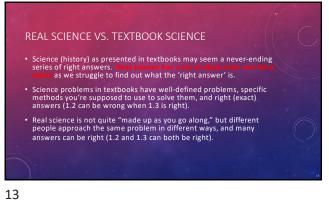






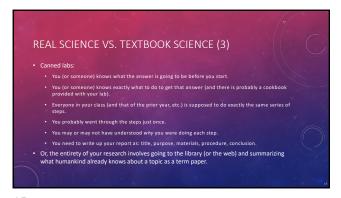


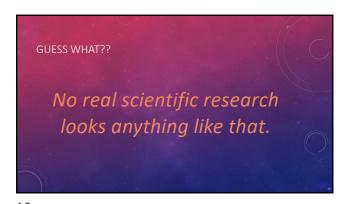




REAL SCIENCE VS. TEXTBOOK SCIENCE (2) The only way you know it's the right answer is if you believe that everything you did to get there is right. This is NOT the same thing as "there is no right answer"! It is, however, "there is no answer in the back of the book"! Wrong answers get published. (Because they believed everything they did to get there was right.)

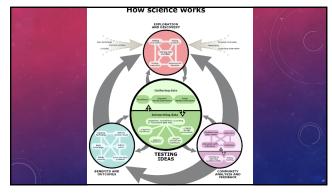
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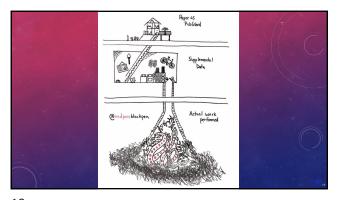


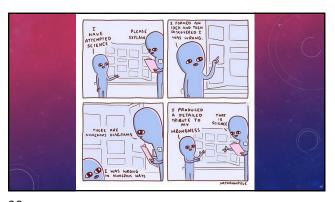
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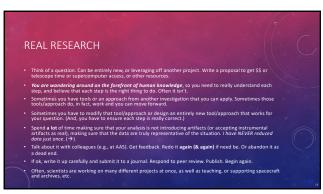








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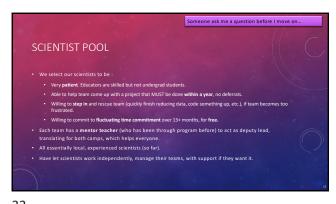




















MAIN PROGRAM COMPONENTS (3) Meet for 4 days at IPAC to work on the data and understand how science works (Summer 2024). Each classroom educator should be able to bring up to 2 students to this visit; students must be heavily involved in the project. [What if no students? What if young students? What if more students? Funding uncertainty.] (We pay for educator/student travel.) • (Watch for: CA Bar exam.)

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MAIN PROGRAM COMPONENTS (4) • Present results of the project in AAS posters (Jan 2025). At least 2 posters: Science and Educa Again, each classroom educator should be able to bring up to 2 students; students must be heavily involved. • (We pay for educator/student travel.) "Culminating event" = "the NITARP restrospective night thing", and/or your poster day.

MAIN PROGRAM COMPONENTS (5) • Educators serve as NASA/NITARP ambassadors. • 12 hours' worth of professional development workshops, talks, etc. over 2 Educators report back to us all the cool stuff accomplished in connection with this. (Please do not forget!!) • Some educators serve as mentor teachers to the rest of the NITARP community of educators and students.

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MENTOR TEACHER CONCEPT Now have ~150 educators who have been through the program, and almost uniformly they want to do more; they don't want to stop after their intensive year! "First year" educators are the brand new ones (first AAS, first IPAC visit, learning the "Second year" educators start with their second AAS, (conduct workshops, work with students, etc.). "Second year" and later educators = alumni. Some join new teams as mentors. Some are involved in follow-up research of their original project using other telescopes. Some are involved in BINAP (more on this later). Some are involved in the proposal review.









WHAT IF \*YOUNGER\* STUDENTS?

- We have had middle school educators since the beginning of the program.
- In the early years, far fewer teachers brought students at all.
- In the NITARP era, most educators have brought students, including MS educators.
- Students of all ages struggle. High school seniors: "expect to work harder than you ever have in your life"; "I thought that keiterlific research would be compiles and complicated, but this exceeds that to a whole new level; "This was an analyzing experience, but is not for the faint of heart.
- From what we have seen, the younger students struggle far more. Some give up halfway through.
- Traveling with very young students also an issue.
- Please be aware of all of this, and don't just dismiss it.
- Some MS teachers have brought former students. Mixed thoughts afterwards.
- TALK ABOUT IT WITH YOUR TEAM.

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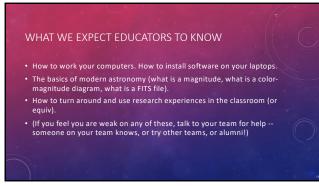








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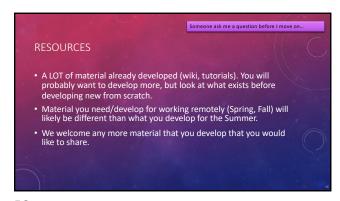


WHAT WE WILL HELP EDUCATORS LEARN

Basics of infrared astronomy.
Basics of your data (telescope, operations, data, processing) and the other archives (contents, usage) as needed.
Basics of software usage (e.g., ds9, etc.).
"How the sausage is made" -- what takes time, what goes fast. (And some surprisingly obvious things...)
"Astronomers are normal people."
"There is more programming involved than I realized."
"We spent SO MUCH TIME on ..."

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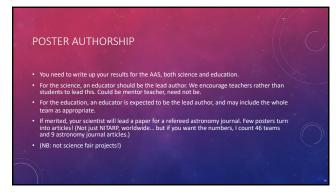




Someone ask me a question before I move on TRAVEL ANXIETIES (PRE-COVID) I consolidated EVERYTHING, all the most frequently asked questions, helpful advice, etc. into
a multi-page travel advice document. (You got a version customized to you at the beginning
of this process, and will get another one customized to each of your next trips.)

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Someone ask me a question before I move on. YOU CAN'T ESCAPE... • We are the "Hotel California." (You can come in any time you like, but you can never leave.) Lots of people take other jobs out of the classroom after NITARP (sometimes during!) As long as you WANT to stay involved, we are happy to have you, regardless of whether or not you are actively working with students. (Remember, NITARP is for YOU because of YOUR leveraging potential. If you're not teaching students, you're still reaching someone, likely someone\*s\*, we would never reach.)

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IT'S OK TO FEEL DUMB (1) • Advice from 2013 teacher: "Teachers need to maybe be reminded that it is OK if they don't mes – and that they are not expected to be experts in the field. They do need to be able to admit when they are confused, be open to feed back from other team members, and have time to commit to the study."

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IT'S OK TO FEEL DUMB (3) • Feeling dumb is part of our job description. • No, really. • This is a state of being for scientists. • "I was born not knowing and have had only a little time to change that here and there." – Richard Feynman

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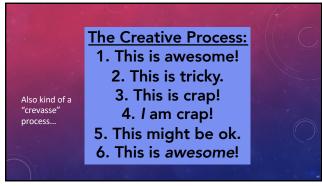


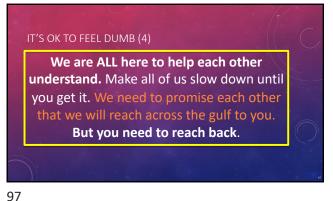




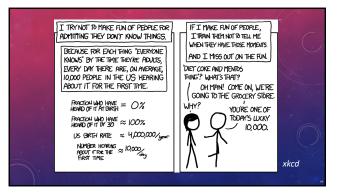


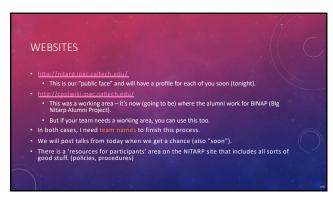


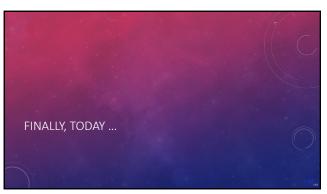


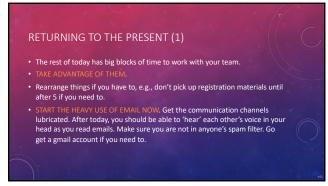














RETURNING TO THE PRESENT (3)

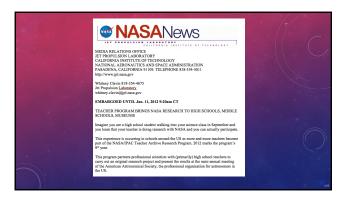
We found, from past years, that the one thing that educators wanted us to do was help them get good press (literal and virtual) at home.

Towards that end, we collected media and administrative contacts from you.

We will put out a press release Tuesday with a few words advertising this class and the prior class's results.

If you gave us no contacts, it's up to you to relay the release.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

• Follow Wil Wheaton's law (see here if you need to look it up: http://en.wikisedin.org/wiki/Wil Wheaton.)

• NITARP hashtag is #initarp

• AAS hashtag is #ass243

• (AAS and AAS media office have useful feeds to follow on multiple platforms. Some presentations may ask: no sharing; people are actively looking for something other than Twitter, and many have migrated to BlueSky.)

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