

BREAKING NEWS



ALL SMILES FROM
THE FACULTY



WEEK ONE:

This week was such a great introduction to the program! The students were able to speak to the head of the program, Dr. Traci Wyatt, as well as the instructors Baba Kamau and Ms. Helen. The Chair of African Studies, Dr. Camara, was able to lecture the students on colonial conquests, African traditions in family settings, as well as the destruction of pre-colonial African nationalities. Students were tested on how many African countries they knew. Baba Kamau also taught the different African flags. Students were able to guess which one was which in a fun and interactive quiz. Nardos, a fellow in the program, was extremely knowledgeable with the different flags, but Yasmin knew more African countries by heart, winning a cash prize at the end!

Thursday was debate day, where students were able to showcase their knowledge on the power of indigenous languages versus colonial languages. What were the benefits of both, and what languages should African countries speak in? Students were given a day of preparation, and both gave valid arguments. However, team "Mother Tongue" gave proper statistics of countries such as Mali and Rwanda who switched from speaking their colonial language of French to their mother tongue, and how it not only decreased dropout rates by 50%, but it also helped bridge younger generations to their past. Themes of Sankofa were ever-present, and the youth were vivacious in their debates. The students understood that language is ultimately a connector to their ancestors.

Our mornings always begin with a meditative and healing ritual. On Friday, Dr. Wyatt was able to lead a therapeutic session with the students. You can visibly see their attitudes become more positive, as it sets the day for us all. Ms. Helen went over African oral traditions by storytelling a wonderful fable from Kenya. The students then played a game of creating their own story, line by line, in a circle.

Our first field trip was to a company called Open Gov Hub, where we connected with Beverley Hatcher, Adam Morales, and Cheri-Leigh Erasmus. They told us about their mission to ensure citizens in Africa continue to have a voice with their respective governments. The students were engaged, asking inquisitive questions that even surprised the panel. Overall, this was an amazing first week!



Team "Mother Tongue" presenting their rebuttal against team "Colonial Language."

STUDENTS LISTENING TO MR. MORALES TOUR THE OPENGOV BUILDING!

