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# ENGAGING DISENGAGED YOUTH: SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR MUSEUM EDUCATORS

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**Paper Session Proposal**  
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**Engaging Disengaged Youth: Successful Strategies for  
Museum Educators**

Arts; Museum Education; Education; Psychology

Synopsis

Student distractions in social learning contexts have escalated and are taxing the effectiveness of museum educators who guide school tours. A seasoned teacher educator offers research-based, humor-filled strategies that build student engagement self-efficacy as a means to enhance teacher museum educator performance.

Paper Session

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**Abstract** Why do many art museum docents struggle to engage inattentive students in school tours? Can the engagement strategies that teachers' find effective in the classroom also step up museum educators' engagement with students in school tours? What are these strategies? This article highlights discussion with docents during and after a professional development session. It identifies specific student engagement behaviors that challenge the effectiveness of art museum practitioners in school tours and offers insight on developing engagement skills. A Texas State University art educator collaborated with the director of education at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas for this investigation. (95 words)