Describe one or two things you did in 2014-2015 to create significant learning experiences for your students, and explain your rationale for doing so.

Each year I lead a 10-day field trip to Japan, which functions not only to introduce students to Japan through a particular theme, but also to give them an opportunity to learn and practice several qualitative research techniques.

For example, in one village student pairs research a neighborhood for several hours, then they design and lead a walking tour for the group that incorporates their findings with the module theme.

Overall, field trips can be a powerful pedagogical tool for both directing student attention and disrupting their pre-existing understanding about places. However, learning in the field also provides students an opportunity to develop their own spatial narratives unfiltered by the instructor. It can be a truly liberating learning experience.