

Synopsis: In an emotional interview, Dr. Tracy Lopez, an English Language Arts and Advancement Via Individual Determination Teacher at West Point Middle School, reflects on her experience visiting Paris and attending the 2024 Summer Olympics. Purpose: Moments when students overcome academic challenges provide a spark to both teachers and students and deserve to be celebrated with the same enthusiasm as any Olympic medal ceremony. Sharing her summer vacation experience, Dr. Lopez hopes she will inspire students to achieve new academic heights and give them more confidence to excel not only in her classes, but across the academic and extra-curricular spectrum. Where and When Used: The video began airing on YouTube.com, DoDEAs Internal Information Resource, and the DoDEA Website in September 2024. Target Audience: The video targets both internal and external audiences, hoping to inspire teachers and families to continue to look for ways to motivate students and celebrate academic achievement. How This Supports Effective Communication: Academic achievement is a process of discovery where individuals cultivate curiosity, perseverance, and the desire to develop. DoDEA strives to foster a passion for lifelong learning in students and employees every day. This video showcases a DoDEA teachers commitment, as she leverages her life experience, to positively affect students. Outcomes Achieved: As of this submission, the video has been viewed a total of 704 times between internal and external platforms, and garnered 38 reactions, seven comments from teachers and parents, and six shares. Teachers, students, and parents with Teacher peer comment: Wow, Dr. Tracy Lopez! This video left me in tears. I am proud to be a WPS DoDEA teacher ignited by this growth mindset with you. Thank you for sharing your experiences of travel, grit, and love for learning. You are a magical teacher! Parent comment: My girls love having her and loved hearing about her experience!