



## Peace Corps Success Story Education



**Vanessa Arthur**  
**Education Volunteer**  
**Mozambique 2008-2010**  
**Ghanaian-American**

**EDUCATION:** M.A. International Education, New York University.  
B.A. Government & Politics and Chinese, University of Maryland at  
College Park

**NOTABLE PROJECTS:** Vanessa's primary job as secondary school English teacher in Mozambique also allowed her to take on various secondary projects, including: leading a group of journalism students in creating and editing the daily school newspaper for topics relating to healthy habits and behavior change; facilitating weekly sessions for a female youth group on topics such as gender equality, skill based activities, and HIV/AIDS awareness; heading an English Club over the weekends; and teaching English lessons on the Community Radio.

**CAREER/SKILLS GAINED:** Through her time volunteering with Peace Corps, Vanessa gained skills in project management, leadership, training, and foreign language capabilities. She most recently completed an educational consultancy with the Global Education department at Sesame Workshop.

**WHY DO PEACE CORPS:** I studied abroad three times in three different countries over the course of my undergraduate degree, and during each of those times, I was one of the few Americans of color. While I found that being the minority abroad wasn't necessarily a bad thing, as long as the 'other' wasn't seen as a naïve American on holiday, I wanted/needed the world to know that the United States is a country filled with people from various cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds. Additionally, I *really* wanted to have an opportunity to engage and live in a community where I could soak up all the life experiences that could only happen over an extended period. During my 2-year service, I was able to work at the grassroots level working directly and building relationships with community members, counterparts, colleagues, my students, and their families all while communicating in and learning another language. Not only did Peace Corps allow me to learn from the host country, but also allowed me to share a piece of my culture and myself.



Vanessa (at center) with students after completing a week of Model School at the local secondary school during In-Service Training (IST).



---

[facebook.com/peacecorps](https://facebook.com/peacecorps)  
[twitter.com/peacecorps](https://twitter.com/peacecorps)  
[peacecorps.tumblr.com](https://peacecorps.tumblr.com)  
[youtube.com/peacecorps](https://youtube.com/peacecorps)  
[flickr.com/peacecorps](https://flickr.com/peacecorps)  
[linkedin.com/company/peace-corps](https://linkedin.com/company/peace-corps)  
[peacecorps.gov/collection](https://peacecorps.gov/collection)

**Live, learn, and work  
with a community overseas.  
Be a Volunteer.**

[peacecorps.gov](https://peacecorps.gov) | 855.855.1961