

Mr. Conrad-Carroll County has been taking a trip to Europe since 1990. Before my tenure, Warren McEuen headed up the trip. He and the Spanish teacher from Owen County shared with me negative experiences they had with EF tours and CHA, which are two travel companies they used in the past. I remember them sharing that EF and CHA offered bare basic accommodations, hotels located far from downtown or city centers and they also combined groups who are not affiliated with one another in order to fill a bus. There are several advantages to having our own bus and having closer accommodations to the cultural attractions and events. One being with the subway system as there would be less stops and less getting off and on a Subway in order to get to the various locations. Also, with EF and CHA the students had to purchase their metro tickets with their spending money. Thus, the students had to stand in line forever to get the tickets. Also, in '96 EF changed the dates of the trip, causing the students to miss school days. In '00, CHA changed the itinerary, giving Carroll County the choice of choosing the original for an additional \$265 per person or opting for the new itinerary. Thus, after the year 2000 Warren and the teacher from Owen County decided to go with a new company, Prometour. When I joined Warren on the trips in 2005, he was using Prometour out of Canada. They have always provided excellent accommodations and service. Prometour includes the price for the metro (subway) in the package and provides accommodations within shorter distances. Prometour also allows us to travel without adding others to our group as well as having the arrival and departure dates guaranteed. In summary, I want the students to have the best experience possible, and sometimes that is not the cheapest possible option. I'm not sure the best way to say that without sounding pretentious, but one of the jobs of a teacher is to use my experience and knowledge. In this case, the experience is transferred, but still valid. From experience, the difference in cost over ten days is worth the advantages provided by a more reliable and authentic experience. Thus, I would like to continue using Prometour as our travel company in 2015.

Thanks for your time.

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