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Sustainability Workshop

SSP203Zurawski

Sustainability using the Stanford Model Final Project

I have been using the topic of volunteering in my RDG071 for the past two semesters and I have been very proud of my students as well as the different dynamics that it reveals about the community and ourselves. What this class has taught me is that I only presented what was the "top layer of the onion." I never brainstormed with my students different places to volunteer. This was accomplished by a simple handout I gave to them. I never discussed the empathy aspect of it and we never took the time to reflect after our project was over nor did I give my volunteers a chance to share their experience. This class has given me the opportunity to see all that should be a part of this writing project and I will work on incorporating those in the Fall. Volunteering has a huge impact on social justice and making the world more green on more than just one level.

The Stanford Model served as a basis of thinking which provided the class participants with a realistic view on how social and planet sustainability can be accomplished or should I say, how it should be accomplished. The learning outcomes were understanding the different steps of the process, how it is implemented and what the outcome of each step would be. Having an understanding of this model will help the instructor to implement any level of the sustainability spectrum. Each step is so important and can provide such great results that while important as a whole, each step alone serves a really important purpose-both for the participant as well as the community that it would impact.

In terms of my 071 writing project, following the model and trying to incorporate this into my writing project, would give my students a better understanding of the purpose, or goal for the project on a much deeper level than how I have been presenting it. Brainstorming, looking into empathy as well as reflection, I feel, would really give the student the desire to volunteer again and may inspire more students to complete the act of volunteering. In terms of assessment for my class, I may include a reflection paragraph that is separate from the actual paper so that the student is made to think the topic through and realize their responsibility for their community. For those who choose to volunteer, I will give them a chance to share with the class what task they chose to perform, the location as well as what was learned while they were there.