United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Pedagogy Fellowship

Improving Life for the Homeless. Utilizing used electronic equipment for students and low-income persons.

Courtney Webb, MA, Pima Community College (Arizona)
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2021-2022

Introduction:

You are a part of a collegewide effort to increase access to education and empower students through "open pedagogy." Open pedagogy is a "free access" educational practice that places you - the student - at the center of your own learning process in a more engaging, collaborative learning environment. The ultimate purpose of this effort is to achieve greater social justice in our community in which the work can be freely shared with the broader community. This is a renewable assignment that is designed to enable you to become an agent of change in your community through the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For this work, you will integrate the disciplines of Sociology, Environmental Engineering, ESL and Career Studies to achieve SDG #11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Homelessness as a social dilemma is on the rise across the country and here in Tucson, AZ. The project seeks to engage students in study to understand what the problem is and how it originates. Thereafter, students will be asked to either design or piggyback on an existing system that can be utilized to improve, in some way, the lives of homeless persons. This can be designing a new building, a housing complex, redesigning existing structures; utilizing natural resources and/or modern technologies. Students will interact with staff at University of Arizona to learn about different programs now in place that study and address sustainable life. Students will research ways to rehab outdated electronic equipment for use by students and low-income students. The secondary focus will be on SDG #8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG #12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Learning Objectives:

Students will learn the basic seeds of the homeless problem. They will seek to learn what resources are available to assist these problems: citywide, countywide, statewide; with Federal and private resources. They will engage with staff and faculty at the University of Arizona (where they will soon be students) to explore programs and activities that are currently in place to create sustainable environments in our community. They will design their own project, keeping in mind available resources, and creatively explore ways to improve the living situations of the homeless population. Students will research ways to recycle electronic equipment for reuse.

Purpose/Rationale:

Many people in our society are aware and troubled by the continual rise in the homeless situation. Most of us are confused about how to assist these people. What is the right answer? The homeless situation in our society actually affects all of us in ways that we are not aware of. The resources of police, paramedics, doctors, hospitals, street workers, etc., the list goes on, are pulled into the ongoing daily dilemma of these folks. As a society, we need to come up with some fair and equitable solution/s to these continued and rising problems.

Additionally, the stockpile of old electronic equipment in junkyards grow; the homeless and low income persons need to have access to very low cost electronic equipment like cell phones and computers in order to keep up with the daily activites of modern life and school.

Instructions:

Framing the project: Students will first do research to discover likely causes of the rising homeless situation. We will go on a field trip to the ENR2 building onsite at the U of A campus. We will tour the Environmental and Natural Resources Building 2 and find out about UA programs that deal with sustainable environments. Students will contact a faculty member of UA who aligns with their personal project and seek to get information about how their particular project may be accomplished. Students will do research to find out what is currently being done in our local area to help the homeless. Students in MD will research what activities are currently in place to rehab and sell electronic gear.

Further Instructions: Students will do a write up about their initial findings on the homeless. They will then do a discussion on their meeting with the ENR2 faculty meeting and thereafter; combine the two to define their own project. For example: students can develop ways the public library system can utilize refurbished computers to loan out for low-income patrons on a long-term basis. This will reduce inequalities by providing technology 'gear' to individuals who otherwise could not afford to buy them. Students can investigate ways that computer-recharging ports can be made accessible to the public without charge.Instructions: Students will do a field trip to the UA Library. The librarians will discuss aspects of research writing. In addition, the librarians will discuss Open Educational Resources that exist at the UA Library and direct students on how to find and use these resources.

Format Requirements:

Format Requirements: Lastly, students will combine their research and design activities into a presentation. The final product can be a paper, a PowerPoint, or a video. The student may also create a 3D representation of their design and explain how it will work.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

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Introduction:

You are a part of a collegewide effort to increase access to education and empower students through "open pedagogy." Open pedagogy is a "free access" educational practice that places you - the student - at the center of your own learning process in a more engaging, collaborative learning environment. The ultimate purpose of this effort is to achieve greater social justice in our community in which the work can be freely shared with the broader community. This is a renewable assignment that is designed to enable you to become an agent of change in your community through the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For this work, you will integrate the disciplines of Sociology, Environmental Engineering, ESL and Career Studies to achieve SDG #11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Homelessness as a social dilemma is on the rise across the country and here in Tucson, AZ. The project seeks to engage students in study to understand what the problem is and how it originates. Thereafter, students will be asked to either design or piggyback on an existing systems that can be utilized to improve, in some way, the lives of homeless persons. This can be designing a new building, a housing complex, redesigning existing structures; utilizing natural resources and/or modern technologies. Students will study how to reclaim used electronic equipment for its use for students, the homeless and low-income persons. The secondary focus will be on SDG #8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG #12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Learning Objectives:

Assignment Learning Objectives: Students will learn the basic seeds of the homeless problem. They will seek to learn what resources are available to assist these problems: citywide, countywide, statewide; with Federal and private resources. They will research the resources that are currently available and that are being used now. They will explore (as much as they are able) what the specific needs of the homeless are from the street perspective. They will design their

own project, keeping in mind available resources, and creatively explore ways to improve the living situations of the homeless population.

Purpose/Rationale:

Many people in our society are aware and troubled by the continual rise in the homeless situation. The homeless situation in our society actually affects all of us in ways that we are not aware of. The resources of police, paramedics, doctors, hospitals, street workers, etc., the list goes on, are pulled into the ongoing daily dilemma of these folks. As a society, we need to come up with some fair and equitable solution/s to these continued and rising problems. Additionally, the number of used phones and computers continue to rise in junkyards. How can these devices be rehabbed for the use of students and low income persons?

Instructions

Creating and recording the assignment: Students will first do research to discover likely causes of the rising homeless situation. We will go on a field trip to the ENR2 building onsite at the U of A campus. We will tour of the Environmental and Natural Resources Building 2 and find out about UA programs that deal with sustainable environments.

Students will do research to determine if any studies have been made to determine what the homeless themselves feel they need the most.

Further Instructions: Students will do a write up about their initial findings on the homeless. Students can choose from a number of different projects, such as: students can develop ways the public library system can utilize refurbished computers and telephones to loan out for low-income patrons. Students can investigate ways that computer-recharging ports can be made accessible to the public without charge.

Students can choose to design a Tiny House that can be used to house the homeless to give security and privacy. Also, pre-engineering students can study inexpensive ways to deliver electricity to such a house.

Students can study water and conservation of water resources that can be used for the homeless. A large issue for the homeless, in Tucson, is a lack of facilities for hygiene. Students can explore shower and hygiene options.

Once a homeless person has a phone, how do they get Internet service? Students can explore Internet Zones for public use.

Students can explore the funding that is currently available to help the homeless. They can research where the funds come from: city, county, state, Federal and private. They can create a

grant-writing project to target specific funds. They can explore which homeless groups are the most in need and determine what those specific needs are to be.

Students can explore Medical Clinic options for the homeless. Who is available to provide medical care to the homeless? Nursing students and medical interns from UA? How to find licensed psychiatrists to prescribe and delivery psychiatric medications.

Food: Students can study ways to deliver food to the homeless so they don't go hungry. They can look into the funding and delivery of food.

Rehabbed Electronic Gear: Students in MD can research they ways in which the gear can be rehabbed. Then, once that is done, how can the gear be distributed?

Format Requirements:

Format Requirements: Lastly, students will combine their research and design activities into a presentation. The final product can be a paper, a PowerPoint document or a video. The student may also create a 3D representation of their design and explain how it will work. They can share their projects with other students using Google Sites. The final presentation can be on YouTube, FlipGrid or Prezi platforms.