



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Pedagogy Fellowship

Academic Service Learning: Advocacy and Migration

Lynnae Thandiwe, Pima Community College (Arizona)

Roberto Hurtado, Montgomery College (Maryland)

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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 Spanish and Paralegal Studies to achieve SDG #10: Reduced Inequalities with a focus on 10.7 - Facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Learning Objectives:

This activity is intended to build a deeper understanding of migration trends and the refugee crises. Students shall learn about basic human needs and rights of asylum seekers and refugees especially as these rights and barriers include language access issues.

This is an interdisciplinary assignment because it addresses issues of non-native speakers classified as refugees or asylees.

Purpose/Rationale:

This active learning practice is also designed to improve your academic skills, increase community connections, and improve social justice for our community. Spanish speaking skills and paralegal skills are powerful communication skills that increase access to justice, and access

to service while breaking down communication barriers. Defining a problem and compiling strategic resources improves communication skills.

Instructions:

This is a scaffolded assignment. The first assignment for Paralegal Studies is drafting a memo and for Spanish students is participating in a discussion forum. To complete this, students will watch a documentary of their choice and read a blog about refugees and asylees as well as conduct research. The second assignment is drafting an advocacy piece. Students should identify a person or community entity that may be effective in advancing the position that student takes as part of their advocacy. The piece should identify their position. They should provide evidence for their position from research. The advocacy piece can be produced in the format of email to a government official, or advocacy group: a persuasive discussion post to fellow students: a blog, or an op-ed or opinion piece submitted to a journal outlet. Students have the ability to be awarded a Changemaker Badge for extra credit. The third assignment should be a reflection piece. The reflection piece should be 250-300 words. The reflection can be submitted as an essay, a three-five minute video, or a discussion post. The reflection piece should address what the student learned, any suggestions for improving the assignment, and reflection on community engagement. Students will read asylee vs refugee background blog.

https://www.lirs.org/refugees-asylum-seekers-migrants-whats-the-difference/?gclid=CjwKCAjwuvvmHBhAxEiwAWAYj-OUKwMhBWq8aS6Bq3gkPd4QfXPNhF63uSpTcHQ9DenXcjt5Do6h7hoCmOsQAvD_BwE

Students will watch a documentary of their choice:

- Paper Children (Niños de papel) | Inside America's Overwhelmed Asylum System
<https://youtu.be/jdsPSkFXrD4>
- Children of Syria or ISIS in Afghanistan
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/forced-to-flee-6-documentaries-to-watch-to-understand-the-global-refugee-crisis/>

Format Requirements:

Format Requirements for Memo – Paralegal Students. The memo should be written following the format for legal memos. The word length should be 500 words. The memo should identify the legal questions, and brief answer and discussion. For Spanish students, after watching the video, they will respond to a discussion prompt in the target language in 8-10 sentences.

Format Requirements for Advocacy piece. The advocacy piece should use a minimum of 3 sources. A reliable source is one that is not biased and that can be backed up with evidence. The advocacy piece should be between 400-700 words. For Spanish students, this must be done in the target language.

Format Requirements for Reflection piece: The reflection piece can be submitted as an essay, video, or a discussion post. It should be around 200-300 words. Students are not required to use sources as part of their reflection. Reflection for Spanish students will be done in the target language.

*We've adapted the Montgomery College Changemaker rubric

*The assignment will be worth 10% of students' final grade

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