



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Pedagogy Fellowship

Inclusivity Takes More than Lip Service: Assessing Private Businesses as to Their Commitment to Accessibility

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Introduction:

Welcome to your role in an international mission. This mission is dedicated to expanding educational access and championing student empowerment through "open pedagogy." In this approach, you, as a student, are at the heart of an engaging, collaborative learning environment, with the freedom to access your educational journey. What is this mission's ultimate goal? To heighten social justice in our community, promoting the free exchange of knowledge and work. Under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework, this renewable assignment paves your path to becoming an agent of change within your community. Prepare to embark on this transformative journey.

For this work, we will integrate the disciplines of English, Humanities, Education, Game Studies, and Biology to achieve the primary goal of responding to SDG #16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Within this SDG, we will focus on the specific targets 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, and 16.10.

Purpose:

Workers in Allied Health, many of whom are earning their certifications and degrees at community colleges, need to better understand the discrimination the disability community undergoes if they are to be effective allies for their patients/clientele. Students in other fields, such as architecture, law, medical technologies, medicine, nursing, occupational and physical therapy, and social work, among others, can explore disability-related specializations as career options.

Learning Objectives:

Discern discriminatory practices so, as allies of the disability community, better to combat and eliminate them.

Instructions:

After researching primary source materials, such as the ADA itself and building guidelines and regulations regarding handicapped accessibility, students are asked to pore over how a given business brands itself and analyze whether this projected image corresponds with their accessibility to members of the disability community.

A sample site assessment is included in the learning activity, as well as a government form to guide student observations and notes, four practice thinking prompts for critical thinking, and a grading rubric, Incorporated graphics and videos enhance the experience for visual learners.

Format Requirements:

The site assessment is a report 350-750 words in length with accompanying photos to document the observations and claims. Students are encouraged to post their work on Yelp and other online forums, including a podcast of them reading their work, if they want to be agents of change.

Assessment Criteria:

The grading rubric specifies that 30% of the content pertains to background information on the business as well as its advertising; 60% pertains to a walk-through and evaluation with supporting evidence in the form of pictures and short videos; and 10% pertains a conclusion about whether or not, based on findings, to continue doing business with the establishment. The writing should abide by the rules and conventions of "standard" English. Exemplary work earns an "A"; satisfactory, a "B"; passable, a "C"; much room for improvement, a "D"; and unsatisfactory, an "F." The activity will be worth 10% of the total points possible.

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