

Sustainability Train-the-Trainer, 2/18/09 **Group Ideas**

Infusion Ideas

- Science: Teach groundwater and landfill leaching concepts and they are connected (pollutants seep into groundwater contaminating freshwater resources). Have students track their consumption, waste and recycling for two weeks. Then they report back. Discuss.
- Math: Show graph of national deficit for 100 years to illustrate exponential growth rate. Discuss.
- Math: Use time value of money and interest rate growth to show how much money is paid at the end of the period (student loan interest; credit card debt). Then have them calculate how long it will take to pay off debt.
- Math: Water conservation and efficiency calculations. For example, how to calculate the benefit-cost analysis of a new water-efficient showerhead (or other measure).
- Logic: Illustrate the concepts and techniques taught in content. For example, using forms of reasoning to make choices and dissect an argument. For instance, a problem involving household power and water use coupled with population growth. Problem-solve question.
- Global Health: Students write down, on a small piece of paper, a group of people with whom they have the most challenge. Students fold paper in two and turn in. Then students interview someone in that group and report back to instructor via a report or journal.
- Action-Based Project: Students design a meal for themselves, cook and eat it, then write a report. Guiding principles suggested could include food that is: local, organic, seasonal, minimal packaging.
- Teachers' Sharing Groups: Invite faculty from same (or other) discipline to sit in on a class session that is challenging to infuse sustainability. Peer provides feedback on ways to infuse sustainability.
- Business: Create an implicit or explicit link between business, the environment and society. Highlight how resources are extracted and what impact that has on the environment and/or society. Use case studies of companies practicing exemplary sustainability policies and practices.

Resources

- Free Range Films
- Bullfrog Films
- *Affluenza* film and book
- *Advertising the End of the World*
- *Overworked American*
- *Take Back Your Time*

Teaching Methods

- Stories and examples
- Films
- Project-based learning
- Student-centered learning
- Visual images
- Problem-based learning: incorporating concepts with word, math or logic problems
- Infuse into tests