

Lesson Plan

Premises: The Earth Charter is a fairly new document (drafted in 2000). It is an inspiring guide to lead a better life and in the process save the Planet and ourselves. However, not many people know about it. The public in general needs to be informed as to what it is, what it means, and how to live according to it.

Objectives: Working in groups of two, students will write, produce and edit a 60-second video about one of the following:

- 1) The first main principle: Respect and Care for the Community of Life
- 2) Each of the main 4 principles.
- 3) One of the 16 principles in the context of a main principle.

Preproduction:

- 1) In order to write the script, students will be required to download and read the *Earth Charter*, from the Earth Charter website. (earthcharter.org)
- 2) The Charter will be discussed in class.
- 3) After the groups select a principle to work on, they will read the chapter that relates to their selected principle in the book *The Earth Charter in Action*, which they can download for free from Earth Charter website.
- 4) *The Earth Charter in Action* will be discussed based on the principles selected by the group.
- 5) The script writing process will go through three drafts.

Production and Post Production:

- 1) Students will be given access to a library of high-resolution photographs and video clips that are directly and indirectly related to the topics covered by the principles of the *Earth Charter*. It is from these images that they will build and edit the videos, along with the recorded narration of their scripts.
- 2) They will produce and edit the video programs using *Final Cut Pro* or *Avid*, *LiveType*, and *Smartsound*. These are the software used in the two courses.
- 3) The editing process will go through the typical editing workflow, of working through many versions before achieving a final polished one.

Distribution and Exhibition:

- 1) The completed works will be aired by the local access TV station run by the College: MDCTV.
- 2) A screening will be held in class to discuss the merits of the videos from a technical perspective as well as in their effectiveness in communicating the intended messages.
- 3) They will also be included in the Earth Ethics Institute iTunes University website. The public in general as well as other faculty members who might want to use them in their courses will have access to them through this venue.