

Professor Eric Lichtman

Sustainability at Kendall Campus

This lesson plan for SPC 1017 aims to motivate and engage students to reflect and act on sustainability concerns for Kendall Campus. I propose that at the start of the term I introduce Sustainability in all of my classes and indicate how understanding this issue relates to Communication Competencies (skills that activate interpersonal communication, listening, cultural sensitivity, ethical awareness, critical thinking, and power relationships). I would also at this time introduce all of the Learning Outcomes at MDC, and indicate how this course can support student learning via these outcomes; also, I would emphasize our Discipline's explicit focus on Outcomes 1 & 3 (Communication & Creative/Critical Thinking), but also I would reference the other eight Learning Outcomes as helpful to the students' learning experience.

Then I would ask students to think of a personal project that they could explore during the semester that would enhance Sustainability on Kendall Campus. For example, it might be their use of paper, their use of drinking water on campus, their recycling on campus, their commute (ride sharing or biking?), and so on. For the first month, I would introduce—at the start of each week—suggestions from the text—*147 Practical Tips for Teaching Sustainability (2006)*. The book is divided into sections that include--
1) Language, Defining, & Listening, 2) History (Unresolved Questions), 3) Systems, Synergy, and Visions, 4) Economics & Consumption, 5) Design, Nature, & Buildings, 6) Ethics, Values, & the Sacred, 7) Personal Responsibility & Empowerment, 8) Planning Ahead, 9) Approaches & Assessments, 10) Learning Through Experience, 11) Positive Learning Climate, 12) Awareness & Consciousness Expansion, 13) Effective Communication, 14) Cooperation & Collaboration, 15) Community & Sense of Place, 16) Critical & Creative Thinking, 17) Supporting Change.

I would use these chapters to supplement our Speech Communication text—connecting the information that applies to reflection and action and integrating this material with Sustainability & Communication Competencies. Throughout the semester I would ask for oral reports from the students about their Kendall Campus Sustainability Project(s). Hopefully, this would make Communication Competencies, Learning Outcomes, and Sustainability more integrated in their daily lives at MDC.