

Consumerism and Sustainability – “The Story of Stuff” Lesson Plan Outline

Subject: EAP 0040 – Speech Level 4
Topic: The cycle of consumer goods – “The Story of Stuff”
Grade: College Level
Time: Two 75-minute lessons
Instructor: Anouchka Rachelson – Miami Dade College

Goal: In this lesson, students will build on their previous unit on sustainability and develop an understanding of the life cycles of various consumer goods. They will also gain knowledge of actions that can be taken to deal with the problem of unsustainable consumption patterns presented in this unit. Students will be able to identify five categories within the life cycle of consumer goods.

MDC Learning Outcomes/ EAP Course Competencies:

- #1 Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- #3 Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- #10 Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment

Competency 2: The student will participate in classroom discussion, express opinions and be understood by attentive listeners. The student will continue to develop oral communication skills including fluency, idea sequencing, accuracy, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Competency 3: The student will ask informational questions and ask for clarification.

Competency 7: The student will understand factual information and respond appropriately to comprehension questions.

Competency 8: The student will take notes on contemporary topics

Outline:

Lesson One

Warm-up: Instructor shows a picture of a dump on the large screen and asks: “What is going on in the picture?” to elicit student responses. Instructor repeats students’ responses and asks them: “What do you see that makes you say that?” to get more specific answers.

1. Instructor then distributes the Note Taking Sheet handout that students will use to write on during the movie screening.
2. Class watches the online version of the Story of Stuff (www.storyofstuff.org) – 25 min.
3. The instructor stops the video after each category to clarify vocabulary, etc.
4. After watching the video, students compare their notes in groups of 4-5 students.
5. Homework: Watch the video again. Add details to your notes. Comment on the film, and write down any questions that you have. Print out the ten suggestions at the end of the video clip.

Lesson Two

1. The second lesson begins with class going over the Note Taking Sheet again. Instructor asks a few students to share their comments and questions with the class.
2. Students get into groups and discuss the suggestions that were presented at the end of “The Story of Stuff” video clip. The instructor circles the room to assist different groups.
3. Representatives from each group share their answers. Instructor facilitates discussion and makes suggestions/corrections.

Home Learning Extension: Select three items from your home and describe their life cycle from extraction, production, distribution, consumption, to disposal.

Assessment: Evaluation of students’ note taking sheet. Short quiz on the five life cycle categories with specific examples. Option: Oral presentation on Home Learning Extension

Materials:

- picture of a dump from Google Images
<http://www.flavor8.com/images/renovation/dump1.JPG>
- link to “The Story of Stuff” at www.storyofstuff.org
- teacher created handout: see next page

The Story of Stuff – Note Taking Sheet

Extraction

Production

Distribution

Consumption

Disposal

Your comments and/or questions: