

Reflecting on the Earth Charter – The Impacts of Global Climate Change Lesson Plan

Subject: EAP 0420 (English for Academic Purposes)
Reading Level 4 (upper-intermediate)
Topic: Applying the Earth Charter to Climate Change in the Maldives
Grade: College Level
Time: Two 75-minute lessons
Instructor: Anouchka Rachelson – Miami Dade College

- I. Goal: In this lesson, students will become acquainted with essential elements of the Earth Charter. They will also become aware of the impact global climate change is having on different regions of the world.
- II. Instructional Objectives: Students will:
1. develop a basic understanding of the Earth Charter
 2. understand the influence climate change is having on various regions of the world, in particular low islands
 3. summarize main ideas and details of an article on the Maldives' response to global climate change
 4. connect Section I of the Earth Charter (Respect and Care for the Community of Life) to the situation currently experienced by the people living in the Maldives
 5. use critical thinking strategies to identify possible solutions to the problem at hand
- III. Content Outline:
1. What is the Earth Charter?
 2. Section I of the Earth Charter
 3. The consequences of global climate change
 4. The situation in the Maldives (Problems and Solutions)
 5. The Earth Charter applied to the situation in the Maldives
- IV. Instructional Strategies

Warm-up:

1. Instructor shows students a picture of children in the Maldives protesting against the consequences of climate change and rising sea level (see Materials)

Instructor asks the following questions to engage students in critical thinking:

- a. What's going on in the picture?
- b. What do you see that makes you say that? (Elicit specific examples)
- c. What do you think is the situation/problem?

Activities Lesson 1:

1. Instructor hands out a copy of the Earth Charter to each student and explains the essential elements of the document
2. Students take turns reading Section I "Respect and Care for the Community of Life" and discuss the vocabulary and meaning of the four principles and sub-principles
3. Students read the articles "Maldives Considers Buying Dry Land if Seas Rise" from the New York Times (November 11, 2008)

Homework:

1. Write the main idea and three supporting details for the articles

2. Go to the Web site below to learn more about the Maldives:

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/maldives/index.html?scp=1-spot&sq=maldives&st=cse>

Activities Lesson 2:

1. A few students share their homework with the class. Instructor gives feedback and collects homework for assessment.
2. Instructor shows the 4-minute film clip on rising sea levels in the Maldives
3. On the board, the instructor draws a chart/table with two columns: *Consequences/Problems* and *Solutions* and elicits ideas from the class. Instructor asks students about what they already know about climate change and what problems they are aware of. The class then reads the article once more to complete the chart.
4. In groups of 3-4, students reflect on how the principles listed in Section I of the Earth Charter apply to the situation experienced by people in the Maldives.

Closure:

After 15-20 minutes, representatives from each group share their answers. Instructor facilitates discussion.

Homework: How can we use the Earth Charter to improve the current condition and prevent further damage to humans, animals, and the environment in general? Write a 10-12 sentence paragraph in which you explain your position regarding Section I and the consequences of global climate change.

V. Assessment: Evaluation of student writing (see homework assignments)

VI. Materials:

Link to article: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/11/science/earth/11maldives.html?_r=1

Link to Maldives statistics:

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/maldives/index.html?scp=1-spot&sq=maldives&st=cse>

Link to picture:

<http://movingimages.files.wordpress.com/2008/01/maldivian-school-children-worried-about-sea-level-rise-nov-1989.jpg>



Link to film clip:

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/maldives/index.html?scp=1-spot&sq=maldives&st=cse>

VII. General Education Outcomes and EAP Reading Competencies:

GE Outcome #1: Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills

GE Outcome #3: Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning

GE Outcome #5: Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives

GE Outcome #7: Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society

GE Outcome #10: Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment

EAP 0420 Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will read a variety of texts of varying lengths on contemporary and literary topics with some fluency and speed emphasizing vocabulary expansion.

Competency 2: The student will distinguish between main ideas and supporting details in simplified and/or authentic texts at the high intermediate level.

Competency 4: The student will enhance the ability to apply the following critical thinking skills when reading:

- Make simple predictions.
- Draw conclusions from stated information.
- Relate reading to personal experience.