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College Prep English

REFLECTION AND LESSON ASSIGNMENT: DEERING ESTATE

Part 1> REFLECTION: The weather, the setting, and the history lesson all made for a perfect day of learning and reflection on Earth Literacy. As we toured the Deering Estate Cottage and Stone House, and later ventured on the Tequesta Trail, I began to think of ways to incorporate the concepts of natural and cultural history into the curriculum of College Prep Writing.

Part 2> MY STUDENTS: Most of my students are L-2 English learners. They are developing thinkers as well as developing writers. As I help them learn about and come to understand and appreciate American cultural history, I will encourage them to also reflect on the cultural history of their homelands and investigate ways in which ecological sustainability and historical preservation efforts are now being implemented, or NOT, in their countries of origin. I will urge them to think of ways in which the issues could possibly be introduced, discussed, or encouraged.

Part 3> LESSON/CLASS PROJECT:

- Students will form groups of three or four and discuss their cultural backgrounds and countries of origin.
- One student's country of origin will be selected as the research focus of the group project.
- Students will do on-line research on the ecological profile of and current sustainability efforts, if any, of the focus country. For example, the Wiki profile for Costa Rica has an in depth discussion of the Costa Rica's Green Programs.
- Students will identify a possible habitat, parkland, monument, historical building, etc. in need of sustainability/preservation efforts.
- Students will discuss and propose ways in which the focus country can better promote sustainability and preservation.
- Groups will present research via a class presentation, either using Powerpoint or with the use of visuals.
- Each student will write a Reflection paper on his/her experiences with the project and his/her understanding of the Green/Sustainability/Preservation issue. Papers will be graded for content as well as for grammar, mechanics, and rhetorical mode.