

Impact of Food on the Environment

Tina Lombard, Associate Professor, Senior
English Department, North Campus
(305) 237-1638

The following items could be presented in class over a couple of sessions:

Ewg.org, organicconsumers.org – websites used for class discussion that teach students about which foods are more toxic and potentially carcinogenic than others. Teach students about the harmful effects of genetically modified seeds, known as genetically modified organisms (GMO'S), and encourage them to tell their families and friends to shop for products not containing these compounds.

Search under “saving seeds” on YouTube for class discussion ideas and presentations.

Teach students about the thousands of types of rice and other grains and how some have medicinal properties, and how very few varieties are actually available to consumers and farmers.

Teach students about chemical influences on agriculture in the 1950's and 1960's (initially expected to have beneficial effects) and how farming and ranching are currently causing 70% of endangerment of species.

Possibly use as a textbook Vandana Shiva's 1999 book *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*, South End Press, Cambridge Massachusetts.

Teach students about how corporations deal with consumer affairs and public image via observing the websites and television sponsorships by corporations. Discuss how some of these companies hold patents to building blocks of life--treating chemical compositions of organic seeds as inventions of man and reasons for worldwide civil unrest. Discuss how birds sometimes carry the seeds and how often impoverished farmers are sued for having the seeds on their land.

Assign a service learning exercise working with the rockgardenherb.com local greening project, which plants herbs and other products in abandoned rail yards and warehouse districts.

End with assigning a research paper on a related topic.