

Primary Research/Oral Presentation Assignment

The Assignment

This assignment asks students (usually in groups of 3-4) to put on a 20 minute PowerPoint, verbal, and/or video presentation on the topic of sustainability and its impact on campus life. Specifically, I will instruct students to conduct research to identify at least three sustainability projects on and around campus and then discuss the impact those projects have had on them and their peers.

Sustainability Goal

The goal of this assignment is to get students to be able to identify green initiatives, looking particularly at the types of projects implemented, the scale and scope of those projects, and the affect those projects have had in their community and environment. In terms of sustainability, first I want to see the level at which students can identify sustainability initiatives that have been or are in the process of being implemented on and around campus. More to the point, I want my students to look beyond recycling bins and solar panels to the less obvious signs of environmentally friendly practices, such as space utilization and the use of local suppliers. Secondly, I want my students to be able to assess the affects that those initiatives have on them, their peers, and the campus through interviews, surveys, and other empirical evidence. Finally, based on the knowledge they acquire through their research efforts, I hope that my students will become more engaged with, cognizant of, and compassionate about sustainability.

Learning Objectives

This assignment is design to teach students:

- Primary research;
- Public speaking;
- Writing;
- Document/slide/video design; and
- Collaboration.