



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Open Pedagogy Fellowship

“Steps for Successful Service-learning Assignment”

Academic Service-learning: Reducing Inequality in Our Community

Introduction: Open pedagogy - a component of Open Educational Resources - is a "free access" educational practice that places students at the center of their learning process in a more engaging, collaborative learning environment. The main objective of this assignment is to enhance social justice by reducing inequalities, one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in a community in the United States or abroad. This is a renewable assignment designed to create a hands-on learning experience for students through which they can improve lives in a community of their choice and share the outcomes of their work with others. In this interdisciplinary assignment, students will integrate theories and practices from two academic disciplines, Communication Studies and Business Administration, to achieve the SDG #10, Reduced Inequalities.

Instructions: In groups of 4 or 5, students will research the benefits and challenges of service-learning (for students and for the organizations and communities they serve) and write a 6 - 10 page paper about their findings.

During the research process, each group member must analyze a real-life case study about service-learning (SL) to determine lessons learned and identify ways SL can enhance social justice and improve quality of life for the people in their communities. Brief individual presentations about their findings are due the third week of the semester.

Based on their research and analysis of case studies, each group will create a fun, original, and effective Steps for Successful Service-learning presentation in a creative format (e.g., video; graphic novelette or comic book; animation; board game or any type of interactive game; original art work or installation). Groups submit papers and deliver presentations the fifth week of the semester.

Students will also share their projects (or images and descriptions of them) publicly through at least one social media platform in order to raise awareness about the ways in which SL can be used to reduce inequalities etc.

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