

CSS 563

Day 1 Lesson Plan



McCall Outdoor Science School
an experience for all learners

Goals:

- To introduce the course
- To discuss what is important to us as learners and set guidelines for a Positive Learning Environment
- To share personal visions of what is important to each of us as teachers and think of concrete ways that we can make sure those are incorporated into our curriculum
- To understand the origins of EE and discuss where our personal philosophies sit within the greater context

Introduction (9 – 10 am)

- Introduce course content, style and evaluation methods
- Have students reflect on their ideal Learning Environment by finishing these statements:

I learn best when....

I am most comfortable learning when...

I expect my teacher to...

To do my best as a student, I...

Essential Questions:

- What is the source of your concern for the environment?
- Who do I want to be as an educator?
- How does this vision compare to general philosophies of EE?
- What are some concrete ways that I can work towards enacting my vision?

Topic a: Foundations of Environmental Education (10 – 11 am)

Materials:

PowerPoint

Tbilisi Declaration

Intro from Stories in the Land

Present philosophy PowerPoint

Topic b: Personal Lineage

Question 1: What is the source of your environmental ethic?

Reflect on these statements:

Referring to the practice of exposing young children to far away environmental problems, David Sobel writes "The motive for this is honorable and just: if children are aware of the problems of too many people utilizing too few resources, they will grow up to be adults who eat Rainforest Crunch, vote for environmental candidates, and buy energy efficient cars. They will learn that by recycling their Weekly Readers and milk cartons, at home and in school, they'll help save the planet. My fear is that just the opposite is occurring. In our zest for making them aware of and responsible for the world's problems, we cut our children off from their roots" (Sobel, 1996, p. 1)

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How did you come to care about the environment?
What can we do, as educators, to foster this care in others?

Topic c: Discussion of personal teaching ideas (1 pm – 4 pm)

Theme: The Reflective Practitioner

Hike / drive to PSP

Questions 2, 3,4:

- Who do I want to be as an educator?
- How does this vision compare to general philosophies of EE?
- What are some concrete ways that I can work towards enacting my vision?

Activities:

1. Have students find objects that represent what they consider to be their personal teaching philosophy.
2. Present object and discuss how their personal philosophies relate to philosophies we discussed earlier.
3. Discuss with a partner: How do these translate into actual practice? (Think, pair share)