



Teaching Environmental Issues

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How Environmentally Literate are Middle School Students?

- Ecological Knowledge
- Verbal Commitment
- Environmental Sensitivity
- Environmental Feelings
- Issue Identification
- Issue Analysis
- Action Planning
- Actual Commitment



What are the barriers to addressing Climate Change in the classroom?

Environmental Problem VS Environmental Issue:
What's the Difference?

Environmental Problem:
Involves humans, the environment and interactions between the two. The problem occurs when an environmental event threatens human well-being or the quality of the environment (I.e. water pollution)

Environmental Issue:
An environmental problem becomes an environmental issue when two or more people, or groups of people, disagree about how to solve the problem. (I.e. how to address the pollution in a particular river becomes an environmental issue)

Objectives

Awareness - to help social groups and individuals acquire and awareness and sensitivity to the total environment and its allied problems.

Knowledge - to help social groups and individuals gain a variety of experiences in and acquire a basic understanding of the environment and its associated problems.

Attitudes - to help social groups and individuals acquire a set of value and feelings of concern for the environment and motivation for actively participating in environmental improvement and protection.

Skills - to help social groups and individuals acquire the skills for identifying and solving environmental problems.

Participation - to help provide social groups and individuals with and opportunity to be actively involved at all levels in working toward resolution of environmental problems.

Tbilisi Declaration, 1977

Self Assess

1. Which objectives of EE are most familiar to you?
2. Which objective do you think is the most challenging? Why?

5 Step Process to Issue Investigation

- Step 1: Choosing an Issue
- Step 2: Clearly identifying the problem and Issue
- Step 3: Searching for Solutions
- Step 4: Evaluating the Options
- Step 5: Taking Action and Evaluating Results

Key Components for Effective Issue Analysis

Problem: A condition in which the statue of someone or something is at risk.

Issue: A problem about which differing beliefs and values exist.

Players: The individuals or organizations having a role in the issue.

Positions: The postures of the players concerning the issue.

Beliefs: Those ideas concerning the issue, whether true or false, held by the players.

Values: Those guides that tend to reflect the relative importance of beliefs in a given situation, such as, aesthetic (appreciation of beauty); ecological (maintenance of integrity of natural systems); economic (exchange of goods and services for money); cultural (maintenance of the practices of a societal unit); or recreational (use of leisure time)

Solutions: The various strategies available to resolve the issue.
