

# Sustainability lab-Fall:

There are a variety of activities that can be used to satisfy the sustainability lab assignment. This semester Laney is hosting a lecture series about Ethical Eating.

## **I want to come to the Lecture series. How do I show that I was there? What else does the assignment entail?**

Attend three the lectures in the series. Take notes. Write a short (1000-2000 word-about 1-1.5 page) reflective essay for each lecture in the speaker series about your experience; include information mentioned as lecture points that you attended and how they affected your point of view about sustainable practices, transportation of food, resources used to grow/create the food, nutrition, ethics, health, etc. [Yes it is a short essay for each lecture attended]

Gate keeping for the paper: typed, 12 point, 1-inch margins, double space, standard fonts, spell and grammar check, cite sources, standard footnotes and bibliography when warranted. The essay should follow standard essay criteria: introduction, body, conclusion, and be readably. Show me (the reader) the significance of the series and what you learned. If pictures are included, each count as a word. In the paper: describe your experience, why you chose your topic, the relationship to chemistry (even an oblique one is okay); bring about a change in your community; discuss a hot topic; Oh and I use turn it in to check for plagiarism. Plagiarize? No points!

## **Key points to a reflective essay**

Reflective essays are about YOU, your ideas and perspective on an experience or topic, and how that experience affected you. You are reflecting on the topics presented in the series and how the speaker series influenced you. What impressions did you form while listening to the series, include the impact the lecture series has made and what, if anything, you learned? By the way, saying you learned nothing is a cop-out. You learned something. It could be you don't like speaker series-then you need to explain why. The conclusion should be the 'takeaway'. You are evaluating the experience. Think about how you thought about the topic before the series, what you discovered that you did not know, how the talk changed your perceptions. Are there changes that you want to make in yourself? What are they? Why? What kind of insight did you gain?

There is not a lot of facts to research in this type of essay. It should address the topic clearly and concisely, but the style is less formal. This is not a stream of consciousness paper. It should still have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.

Your grade will be based on the quality of your paper and your participation in the series as an audience member. Generally, if you attend all the lecture series, and write the essays, you should get at least a B for this assignment. The paper(s) replace one lab.

## **How many lectures do I have to attend? What are the rules?**

1. Attending one lecture and writing a good (emphasis on good) essay counts for 75%. If you skipped a lab or did less than a 75%, this is a good deal for you. No, can't get more for attending 1 lecture. In other words, one lecture gets you at most a C.
2. Attending one lecture and writing two good (emphasis on good) essays counts for 85%. Even better! Two lectures gets you at most a B.
3. Attending all three lectures and writing three good, nae, GREAT essays counts for at most an A!!!!

## **A "B or C"? I WANT an "A"! How do I make that happen?**

1. Write better essays
2. Force people to come.
3. Attend the full series

## **Can I get less than the posted score?**

Yes, if your paper does not follow gatekeeping, you will lose points.

**I think I want to write a paper and forgo the lecture series altogether. What are the rules?**

Write a 5-10-page (it can be longer, think 7,000-10,000 words if that helps) paper about some aspect of sustainable practices as it relates to chemistry, food, economy, and your community. I have listed some ideas for papers below. Gate keeping for the paper: typed, 12 point, 1-inch margins, double space, standard fonts, spell and grammar check, cite sources, standard footnotes and bibliography when warranted. If pictures are included, each count as a word. In the paper: describe your experience, why you chose your topic, the relationship to chemistry (even an oblique one is okay); bring about a change in your community; discuss a hot topic. Oh and I use turn it in to check for plagiarism. Plagiarize? No points!

You can also do a combination of projects as long as the work is equal to the effort of a 15 page paper. See me for signing off on the paper/projects. You can combine this with one or more lectures in the series.

Ideas for papers and activities:

- Volunteer at Lake Merritt clean up day (you need to call the Lake Merritt Institute for the days.
- Host a dinner party (Vegan, Raw, whatever strikes your fancy) using only food locally grown: Include the menu choice, calculations based on calories, water use, and land use, what pesticides do etc.
- Wind as an energy source compared to fossil fuels. [I so want a turbine at my house]
- The acidification of the oceans due to green houses gases; how partial pressure and Henry's law contributes to the acidification.
- Growing air using plants that absorb VOC
- Cheese (I love it! chemistry me so cheese!)
- Fracking what is it good for, absolutely nothing. Say it again!
- Resiliency and chemistry for our future.
- Engineering better concrete for city streets and our water sources
- Volunteer at the Laney Garden for the semester, and write about your experiences.
- El nino and our weather.

Not sure, run an idea by me.

**REALITY CHECK: I know that some of you can't do the whole lecture series, or have other responsibilities. I am giving you options so you have a similar experience as a lecture go-er.**

**DUE: The papers/projects will be due in November, probably after thanksgiving.**