

“With Our Two Hands”

—Service Learning through Recycling and Writing

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I. Project Description

A. “With Our Two Hands”: How does an at-risk continuation ELD student connect school to the world? There comes a point that students need to connect school curricula with the larger picture of the world at large. In a multi-year project students at Maple High school will build a recycling center for on-campus recycling, taking charge of the recycling needs of their school and by extension, in a series of outreach meetings with the larger school community—family members, other schools— students will study, research, write about and decide what sort of activities are needed to make our school a good recycling place.

II. Outline

A.

Timeline	Activities	Location	Resources	Student/Teacher
Sept to Oct 07	Start recycling in classrooms	Maple High School		Students Daily
Nov-Dec 07	Waste management at school	Maple High School	Trash can- various sizes	Students Daily
January-May	Ongoing Waste management	Maple High School		
Monthly/as needed	Trips to recycling center			
Monthly/as needed	Trips to Landfill	Lompoc/ VAFB		
June	Final Summation	Maple High School		

III. Lessons

A. Each lesson.

- a. Each 6-week unit is built around a project within the recycling umbrella and then is approached through the writing process, as defined through a writing scaffold. This implies that students build a bank of knowledge about recycling about their area, visit sites (if possible) and also initiate the writing process, writing from plentitude.
- b. Students use any number of graphic organizers, pre-writing strategies, and final proofing as needed.
- c. Activities:

1. Collecting and separating school waste-Classroom and cafeteria
2. School community education seminars—student led sessions with parents and families 6 times throughout school year to inform and motivate families
3. 4 trips to local landfills to study composting, recycling, and municipal waste management.

IV. Notes/Tips for Teachers

- A. This year long unit is designed to get at-risk Alternative/Continuation High School students involved in a hands-on, standards-based Language Arts unit.
- B. ELA standards 9-12—Reading, Writing, Speaking strands
- C. The spiraling aspect of this project-based unit is to have students understand their role in the world. “No man is an island, entire of itself...”-John Donne
- D. This unit is ready to be altered for every school and classroom setting. The needs of every setting will necessitate that teachers make it their own.

V. Bibliography A

- A. <http://www.lessismore.org/index.html> SB County Waste Reduction Programs
- B. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/teachers.htm> EPA Educational Resources
- C. <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=882> Apple Learning Exchange