

Global Sustainability Education: From Issues to Solutions

Summary of Presentation:

Global Sustainability—balancing economic, societal, and environmental needs in our interconnected world—offers a powerful framework for developing students’ skills, knowledge and their sense of agency for successful schooling, career, family life and citizenship in the 21st century. In class we may shelter students from systemic issues of poverty or pollution because we, as adults, struggle with them and there are no simple answers. However, using student-centered inquiry into real world issues and age-appropriate, teacher-tested materials makes for dynamic learning.

Speaker Biography:

Kimberly Corrigan is Director of Partnerships. She has two decades of teaching and commercial experience, an M.A. in Communications from The Edward R. Murrow College at Washington State University and a Master's Certificate from Cornell. She managed an education company overseas in the 1990s and travels to Asia, Africa, and the Americas as a U.S. Affiliate for Earth Charter International (UNESCO, 2000).

Dave Wilton is Manager of Professional Development. He develops and leads global sustainability education workshops. Dave presents at conferences, and consults with schools, districts, and educational organizations nationwide. Before coming to FTF, he taught and worked as a land use planner. Dave has a M.Ed. from Antioch University and a B.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from Huxley College at Western Washington University.

Sheeba Jacob is Director of Curriculum Development, managing all resource production, including *Global Issues: Social, Economic, and Environmental Interconnections (2013)* a 24-chapter high school text and teacher’s guide. Before FTF, she taught ELL and LA in Washington D.C., Brooklyn, and India. Sheeba has an M.A. in International Relations and Spanish from Macalester College and an M.Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Time of Webcast: 99 minutes including Q & A

Intended Audience: All current and prospective teachers

Objectives:

In this interactive webinar, Facing The Future personnel will provide tools and professional development on how to teach about global issues and sustainable solutions in engaging and thought-provoking ways for students in K-5, middle school, and high school, including:

- Understanding of the concept of sustainability and how to use it as a framework for teaching,
- Examining issues from multiple perspectives using the habits of critical and creative thinkers, and
- Experiencing interdisciplinary lessons and best practices that tie global issues such as climate change, resource consumption, income inequality, and sustainable development to social studies, science, and math.

Find free and low-cost curriculum, professional development, pedagogical approaches, and classroom examples at facingthefuture.org. Facing the Future is a nonprofit leader whose mission is to create tools for educators that **equip and motivate students** to develop **critical thinking skills, build global awareness, and engage in positive solutions** for a **sustainable future**.

Pre-Questions on the topic:

What does the concept "Ecological Footprint" mean to you?

Questions to Answer During or Immediately After the Webcast:

- 1) Sustainability is often described as the intersection of three circles, representing three different components, in a Venn diagram style or as three concentric circles. Either way, what are the three components of sustainability?
- 2) In the webinar Facing the Future gave two examples of students examining their trash in order to better understand waste and consumption:
 - An elementary school case study of collecting and sorting waste to creating compost to creating gardens.
 - A high school lesson, "Garbology," where students examine a typical American waste stream.

What are a few guiding questions that are being asked in these waste and trash explorations?

- 3) Facing the Future presented several lesson activities from a middle school resource for English Language Arts, *Making Connections: Engaging Students in Language, Literacy and Global Issues*. In these examples, we showed techniques to get students writing, reading and sharing their views using photos as prompts,

responding to agree/disagree statements and ideas for building vocabulary and making meaning through context and dialogue. How might photos of drought effected areas with a graph of fresh water availability be used effectively in a language arts and literacy classroom?

4) What does the concept "Ecological Footprint" mean?

5) Name three components that should be considered when calculating a person's Ecological Footprint.

Questions for Further Exploration:

What does this quote mean to you?

"We must teach our students that they can be architects of the future, rather than its victims." Buckminster Fuller, architect and philosopher

Self-Reflection, Enrichment, and Extension Ideas (take and incorporate into your own teaching):

In one elementary lesson, *Connections All Around: Me, My Food and My Environment*, Facing the Future lists two objectives for students: (1) To be able to identify Connections, Cause and Effect, and Surprising Results in their food, lives, and in nature, and (2) Visually depict what it takes to bring a food item to their table by "mapping" a food item (showing the component parts). The example used was a hamburger. Think of a food item, maybe something you had for lunch! Create a simple diagram of its component parts. Think about how these parts are grown or made, transported and consumed. How might this be a springboard for discussing sustainability in your classroom?

Additional Recommended KDP Resources:

Articles

McKeown, Rosalyn. *Teaching for a Brighter, More Sustainable Future*, KDP Record, Jan-Mar. 2013.

Other Webcasts

Integrating Sustainability throughout Teacher Education. Paul Rowland, Deborah Shanley, and Brenda Fyfe.

Sustainability Education: Critical Themes and Personal Perspectives. Tina Lynn Evans.

Teacher Leadership for ESD. Lorna Down.

Check the KDP Web site (www.kdp.org) for additional and updated resources.