

Let's Talk Trash!

Using creative processes to assess (un)sustainability: facilitating language learning and critical reflection – a practical workshop.

Context

The need to integrate environmental discourses and engagement into teaching and learning is increasingly being highlighted.

Many subjects and disciplines in higher education are introducing historical, present, and future sustainability issues into the curriculum, course design and learning/teaching activities.

Educational institutions and their core activities will be at the forefront of reimagining research, teaching and learning for a finite world. The proposed workshop fits into this trend by offering a creative and critical way into language and sustainability.

Aims

The workshop aims to help participants develop and use creative processes to assess the sustainability of their learning environment, at the same time introducing the language and critical reflection needed to facilitate such an appraisal.

Methodology

Participants explore the language used in creative processes and sustainability. They then put these skills to use by examining and recording, through a creative medium, their learning environment. Presentations are made back to the whole group and the opportunity for critical reflection on both language and learning environment are offered.

Objectives and Expectations

By handing control of both language and learning activity, participants develop a more flexible and critical approach to language learning. In addition, they are encouraged to engage in a perceptive and objective/subjective way with their surroundings and the impact these have on the learning experience.

Using language and creative processes to explore the sustainability of the wider learning environment also opens pathways to investigate more innovative ways to engage students, rethink how we use our institutional facilities, and relocate sustainability and the environment at the heart of learning.

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