

# 4th Annual LEAP Texas Forum

## Building Strong Undergraduate Education: The Essentials



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### **Influencing Sustainable Behavior: An Undergraduate Research Assignment Incorporating Critical Thinking, Teamwork, Communication, and Quantitative Analysis to Foster Social and Personal Responsibility**

Track: Designing Effective Assignments and Signature Work

Amber Raley, University of Texas at Arlington

Location: M1043, One Main Plaza (Westin Hotel) Dallas, Texas

20 February 2017

2:40-3:30 PM

# Today's Students

Name	Birth Years	Age (in 2017)
GI Generation	1901–1924	93–116
Silent Generation	1925–1946	71–92
Baby Boom Generation	1946–1964	53–70
Generation X	1965–1979	38–52
Millennial Generation	1980–1999	18–37
Generation Z	2000–	17 and under

diversity of learning experiences in the classroom  
continuous research of what works for students to learn  
experiential, interactive and authentic learning  
staying connected  
expanding their opportunities on and off campus  
focus on career attainment  
emphasizing social services projects



# What is Sustainable Behavior? WHO CARES?



- **Sustainability**: Making our future the cause of the present.
- Psychology, Urban Planning & Public Policy
- Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Business, Marketing, Sustainability, Health, Environmental Studies, Education, etc.

# Teamwork



- Students in Teams from Day 1:  
ASSIGNMENT of teams based on skills assessment
- **FIVE TEAMS**: 4-5 students in each
- Evaluated on teamwork by peers
- Self-evaluation: STARS for Value Rubric

# Topics



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- **Students involved in topic selection:** individually solicited based on common observations
  - On Campus or In Community
- **Sample topics:**
  - Recycling, Turning off bathroom lights, Lunchroom seating in diverse groups, Internet use in class, Hand-washing, Loudness in study areas, applying for college, vacant land, connecting the city, etc.

# Critical Thinking



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- Explanation of issues
- Evidence
- Influence of context and assumptions
- Student's position
- Conclusions and related outcomes
- **VOTE on topics**

# Information Literacy



- **Literature Review / Annotated Bibliography:**
- 2 of 10 sources from peer-reviewed journals in last decade
- APA citation style
- Access and use info ethically and legally
- Evaluate sources: CRAAP Test (currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, purpose)
- Library skills
- **Online Text:** <http://www.cbsm.com/public/world.lasso>

# Fieldwork & Quantitative Literacy



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- Observational Data and Interpretation
- Interrater reliability and Representation
- Analysis
- Assumptions
- Communication
- **Identifying Barriers and Benefits**



# Integrative & Applied Learning



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- Connections to Experience
- Connections to Discipline
- Transfer
- Integrated Communication
- Reflection and Self-Assessment
- **Developing Strategies**

# Civic Engagement & Lifelong Learning



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- Diversity of Communities and Cultures
- Analysis of Knowledge
- Civic Action and Reflection
- Curiosity
- Initiative
- Independence
- Transfer

# Communication Oral & Written



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- Organization
- Language
- Delivery
- Supporting Material
- Central Message
- Context of and Purpose for Writing
- Content Development
- Genre and Disciplinary Conventions
- Sources and Evidence
- Control of Syntax and Mechanics

# Undergrad Research



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- Conferences
- Research Day
- Identity as Scientists/Researchers
- Experiential Learning
- Leadership