**Ben David Orlando**

**Discipline Awareness Exercise**

**Lesson Plan**

**Distance Learning**

**Assignment Objective:**

For this exercise, you are going to use components of your discipline to tackle the real-world problem of homelessness in the United States. You are also going to work across disciplines to create a multi-purpose action plan.

Sources:

* A.P. News article: <https://www.apnews.com/47662ad74baf4bb09f40619e4fd25a94>
* Read only page 5: Key Findings page of the Housing and Urban Development’s 2017 *Annual Homeless Assessment Report.* <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

**Part 1: Your First Post**

1. Read the two sources linked above.
2. Write down the name of your discipline and three possible career paths within that discipline. Try to think of careers that connect somehow to the problems described in the articles.
3. Describe three foundational questions professionals in your field might ask about the problem of homelessness (you can consult Research Assignment #1 for this information).
4. Based on the readings, write down 3 specific causes or consequences of the problem of homelessness related to your discipline. In other words, why is the problem a problem?
5. At this point, imagine yourself working as a professional in your discipline. Your first job will be to tackle some aspect of the problems you described in #4. But before you decide to focus on a cause or solution, you need to gather more information. Brainstorm 6-10 specific questions to further narrow your parameters.
6. Based on all the information you’ve gathered, focus on a specific area. If you could work on one area of the problem, what would it be? Explain in a 75-150 word paragraph.

**Part 2: Your Second Post**

Read what the members of your group have written. Choose 2 ideas (or preliminary questions) from 2 students whose majors are different from yours. Combine their ideas with your own in order to create a cohesive master plan. Describe this plan in a brief paragraph, using the example below as a guide. *You only need to recreate the paragraph (action plan), not the first part.*

**Part 2: Sample Response**

*This sample response relates to a different problem—the Zika virus*

Action plan: Based on my idea, and the ideas of Claudia and Ana, I’ve come up with an action plan that focuses on informing people about Zika and how to avoid infected mosquitos using the most potent form of communication. Using Ana’s background in psychology, we will find a way to tap into people’s greatest fears in order to get them to pay attention. We will do some research in this specific region and conduct surveys. Using my background in IT, we will figure out what forms of communication have been most effective in the past in relaying information to the public regarding public health problems. Then, Using Claudia’s background in design, we will put together visually-captivating images that incorporate Ana’s psychological findings. We will figure out what platforms to use (sides of buses, websites, etc.) and we will also think about sources of revenue for funding this information campaign.

**Part 3: Your Third Post**

In a brief paragraph, select one of your group mates’ action plans. Explain how their action plan allowed you to see something about your action plan and your discipline from a new perspective. Be as specific as possible (at least 75 words).

**Part 3: Sample Response**

When I looked at the problem of Zika from my field of IT, I thought a lot about communication methods within the different forms of technology, like how fast a computer can process the information and how easy it is for users to access the information. But after reading Claudia’s action plan related to design, I started to think about a different kind of communication. Claudia wrote about the importance of color in catching people’s attention and affecting their moods. In our campaign, red would be used for the initial title and crucial points, but then we would switch to blue to calm people down after they’ve been excited. When I think about how to deliver information across different platforms, I’m now going to think about what colors to use!

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