**Ben David Orlando**

**Discipline Awareness Exercise**

**Lesson Plan**

**Face-to-Face**

**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.

*\*As always, open and title a Word document and save your work periodically.*

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, Independent Work** (25-30 minutes)

1. Read the two sources linked above.
2. In your document, 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 three specific causes or consequences 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, which would it be? Explain in a 75-150 word paragraph.

**Part 1 Sample Response**

*This sample response relates to a different problem—water contamination in Flint, MI*

1. My discipline is Information Technology (IT). Possible careers include data scientists, computer programmers, and computer systems analysts.

2. Professionals in IT would ask how they can best store data, whether this means on hard drives or in a cloud-based network. They would also ask how people can set up systems so that information best serves people across a wide variety of platforms. More specifically, professionals might ask how they can use systems and their skills to help people solve serious problems.

4. One obvious problem described in the articles is that people are getting sick and dying from the water contamination. They don’t know if the water they’re drinking is safe. A secondary problem is that people have had to move in order to gain access to drinking water, and this leads to neighborhoods and whole communities emptying out, and people without a place to go. On another level, a big problem with this situation is that people no longer trust their government because they didn’t prevent this problem from happening.

5.

* What are local businesses doing?
* How can we evaluate the problems with the filtering systems?
* Can we get databases for each grocery store, to make sure they have enough inventory of bottled water?
* How can technology help make the public aware of this problem?
* What kind of technologies can help people get clean water?
* How are people communicating with each other?
* Where can we create websites and market the problem?
* What areas and businesses can we consult with?

6. The Flint water crisis has been going on for years now, and it seems like no one is talking about it. A lot of people in the world do not even know about the problem. I believe as an Information Technology major, to help solve this problem I would create a website and a number of social media chains. I would drive the website up by using the power of social media in order to organize events, collect donations, and to help and spread awareness. It would be a non-profit website, and any money we raise we can use to get clean water to families in Flint. With a popular website, not only will people donate and help, but they will also become more familiar with the situation.

**Part 2, Group Work**

*\*You only need to write down your action plan. One person from the group will write the paragraph and submit the work, listing the names of all groupmates involved.*

1. In your groups, take a few minutes to describe your discipline to your groupmates, and explain your individual action plan. Once each student has gone, move to step 2.
2. Working together, create a unified action plan where you integrate disciplinary elements from each of your original ideas. Write out your action plan in a brief paragraph, explaining each member’s contribution. Your composite action plan should accomplish one or more of the following:
	* Shed light on a specific cause of the problem
	* Raise awareness of the problem
	* Describe a solution to the problem

**Part 2 Sample Response**

For the problem of water contamination in Flint Michigan, the group has created an action plan that combines elements from the disciplines of Information Technology, Social Work, and Biology. The goal of the action plan is to create a method for testing and treatment of water. Brian, as a biologist, would create a system for testing residents to see if they’ve been exposed to contaminated water. The residents will then log onto a website created by Lisa (IT) to find out what they should do next if they have contaminated water in their system. The website will also contain links and contact information for medical and psychological support. This is where Janelle (Social Work) comes in. After residents have sought medical treatment, she will visit and help support residents who’ve faced traumatic circumstances due to the water contamination.

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