Lesson Plan for FTF Students, Discipline Awareness Exercise

**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 multipurpose action plan.

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

Relevant sources:

* A.P. News article: <https://www.apnews.com/47662ad74baf4bb09f40619e4fd25a94>

HUD report (read only key findings on page 5) - <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

**PART 1**

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 (you can consult Research Assignment #1 for this information if you don’t remember).
4. Based on the readings, write down three specific consequences of the problem described in each source. 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. I want you to brainstorm 6 – 10 specific questions to help you further narrow your parameters.
6. Now, based on all the information you’ve gathered, I want you to focus on a specific area. If you could work on one area of the problem, what would it be? Explain your answer in a brief paragraph (75 – 150 words).

25 – 30 minutes

**PART 1 SAMPLE**

\*This sample 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 humans 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.

3.

4. One obvious problem described in the articles is that people are getting sick and dying from the water contamination. A secondary problem is that people have to move to gain access to drinking water, and this leads to neighborhoods and whole communities emptying out, and people not knowing where they can go. On another level, a big problem with this situation is the lack of trust people have for the government that didn’t stop this problem from happening. They also don’t know if the water they’re drinking is safe.

5.

1. What are the local businesses doing?
2. How can we audit the filtering systems?
3. Can we get databases for each grocery store, to make sure they have enough inventory?
4. How can technology make aware of this problem to the public?
5. What kind of technologies can help people get clean water?
6. How are people communicating with each other?
7. Where can we create websites and market the problem?
8. 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, 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, to organize events and set up donations 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. With a popular website, not only will people donate and help, but also become more familiar with the situation.

**PART 2**

1. In your groups, take a few minutes to describe your discipline to your groupmates, and then 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:
   1. Shed light on a specific cause of the problem
   2. Raise awareness of the problem
   3. Describe a solution to the problem

\*For the group work, you need to only write down your action plan. One person from the group will write the paragraph and submit this work with his/her classwork, listing the names of all classmates involved.

**PART 2 SAMPLE**

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. 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 Lisa (IT) created 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 with residents who’ve faced traumatic circumstances because of the widespread problem.

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