The Affective Domain: Combating Student Depression

Why should we care about sustainability and biodiversity?

Suki Smaglik, Central Wyoming College
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What is the Affective Domain?

- Bloom’s Taxonomy of Learning Domains (1956)
  - Cognitive (knowledge)
  - Affective (attitude)
  - Psychomotor (skills)

- The Affective Domain includes our ability to deal with things emotionally, such as feelings, values, appreciation, enthusiasms, motivations, and attitudes (Krathwohl, Bloom, Masia, 1973).

http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/affective/index.html
Why Get Depressed?

- Dire reports (media & other sources)
  - Disasters, Natural and Human-Induced
  - Pollution
  - Population
  - Resources
  - Biodiversity
  - Climate Change

- No sense of personal or global (human) control

- The End of the World: 12/21/12
Students can become overwhelmed by exposure to daunting topics and can feel a sense of...

- Loss
- Doom
- Hopelessness
- …

This can lead to irrational behavior

- Not good for them or the future of humans on our planet
Why should we care?

■ Our students are the future!

http://mortarnbrique.wordpress.com/
An Example of Crisis and Hope:

- The 11th Hour – a movie by Leonardo DiCaprio, with a focus on sustainability and biodiversity

“It’s our generation that gets to change the world…forever.”

11th Hour Movie Trailer (2:20)
(2007)

You Tube Channel: 11thhouraction
An Example of Crisis and Hope

- View in class – experiencing it together creates a community
- Beginning (and end, it time) of the semester
- Movie worksheet – increases engagement and enhances discussion
- Discuss it in class – talking it through makes things more hopeful (and can be exciting)
- Provides a platform for class discussion throughout the course

A complete guide to educational use:
http://bigpictureinstructional.com/a_11thHourTeachersGuide.pdf
How does it help?

- An engaging film hosted by a popular young(er) actor
- Hits on most topics that may be of concern and stresses how concerning they truly are
- Features respected scientists, economists, ecologists, futurists and more
- Provides a note of positive, creative change and inspires the will to make that change (personally and globally)
- Gets students excited about solving environmental problems


Namaste