The Affective Domain: Combating Student Depression

Why should we care about sustainability and biodiversity?

Suki Smaglik, Central Wyoming College
On the Cutting Edge: Teaching Environmental Geology
Bozeman, MT, June 2012

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).

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

What Happens?

- 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

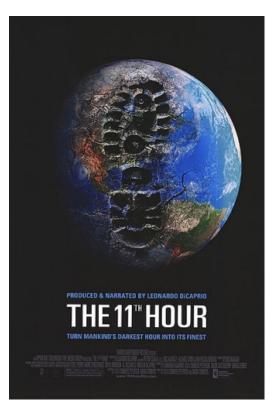
Why should we care?

Our students are the future!



http://mortarnbrique.wordpress.com/

How can we help?



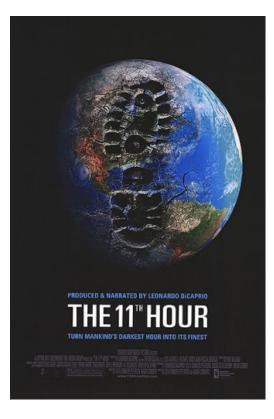
- An Example of Crisis and Hope:
 - The 11th Hour a movie by Leonardo DiCaprio, with a focus on sustainability and biodiversity

"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

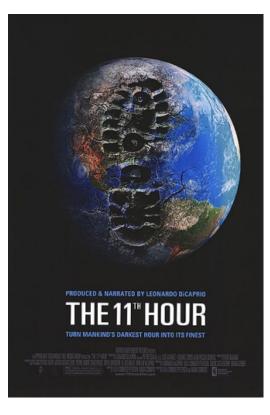


- View in class experiencing it together creates a community
 - Beginning (and end, it time) of the semester
- Movie worksheet increases engagement and enhances discussion
- Discuss it in class talking it through makes things more hopeful (and can be exciting)
- Provides a platform for class discussion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

References

- Bloom B. S. (1956).
 <u>Taxonomy of Educational Objectives, Handbook I:</u> The Cognitive Domain. New York: David McKay Co Inc.
- Krathwohl, D. R., Bloom, B. S., & Masia, B. B. (1973). <u>Taxonomy of Educational Objectives, the Classification of Educational Goals. Handbook II: Affective Domain.</u> New York: David McKay Co., Inc.
- Anderson, L. W. and David R. Krathwohl, D. R., et al (Eds..) (2001) <u>A Taxonomy for Learning, Teaching, and Assessing:</u>
 <u>A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives.</u>
 Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon (Pearson Education Group).



Namaste