Sustainability

Digital Learning Module Questions

**Reflection Questions:**

1. After watching the “What is Sustainability” video, craft your own definition of sustainability.
   1. Your answer should demonstrate the interconnections between humans and non-human nature and recognize equity. Ideas about balance, a flourishing future, and economic viability are also key.
2. True or False: Sustainability is not only an academic discipline, but it is also something citizens are actively involved in.
   1. True
3. Describe the difference between the Three Pillars of Sustainability Model and the Nested Dependencies Model.
   1. The Three Pillars of Sustainability Model shows the social, environmental and economic as three discreet pillars, each having equal importance. The Nested Dependencies Model demonstrates the point that the environment is foundational and fundamentally the most important of the three (as it is the largest circle). Our society exists within the environment and the economy exists within our society.
4. List at least four topics that could be covered within an introductory sustainability course.
   1. Climate Change; Waste; Food Systems; Transportation; Environmental Justice; Ecopsychology; Biomimicry, Ecological Economics
5. True or False: Human activities have raised the atmosphere’s carbon dioxide content by 50% in less than 200 years.
   1. True
6. What does a “life cycle analysis” study?
   1. The environmental impacts of product/service from “cradle to grave.”
7. Industrial agriculture has greatly expanded yields. What are some of the negative impacts to human and non-human systems?
   1. Loss of biodiversity; Soil depletion; Water pollution and depletion; Food waste
8. Explain the phrase “Transportation Policy IS Climate Policy”
   1. Urban design and transportation policy decisions have a huge impact on greenhouse gas emissions. By passing policies that expand public transit and biking and walking, cities can reduce driving and greenhouse gas emissions.
9. What is biomimicry?
   1. An approach to innovation that seeks sustainable solutions to human challenges by emulating nature’s time-tested patterns and strategies.
10. What are three goals for a sustainability course?
    1. Promote understanding without doom and gloom; Focus on solutions; Empower students to make positive changes, moving from analysis to systemic action