Artful Climate Change Storytelling Course
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Please see the Youtube Tutorial that accompanies this course lesson plan:
https://youtu.be/aQTICZzOFJA

Course Description: Communicating the concept of climate change has proven to be an arduous struggle among scientists. Climate change is a complex topic that can be overwhelming; appearing as an abstract phenomenon that is difficult to grasp. To avoid overwhelming people with statistical data and scientific concepts, we can turn to the power of storytelling to convey what is climate change and why it matters through climate change stories. Stories provide a participatory approach to learning and promotes the sharing of ideas across time and space and between generations. They build relationships and elicit emotions, compelling individuals to look, see, listen, and engage. Stories have long been a part of human civilization, being one of the primary tools for learning from early childhood and onwards. In conjunction with storytelling, visuals can be used to enhance the experience of stories as humans are visual creatures.

This course will introduce students to the basic principles of artful storytelling, with a focus on comics as a platform to communicate climate change stories. Though this is not a formal art course, it will tap into the visual and linguistic creativity of students; empowering students to construct their narrative of climate change that is fun and engaging, while being informative and compelling. This course builds on earlier curricula in the G-WOW Model, communicating previous investigations of place-based evidence and science in an artful storytelling format.

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to convey climate change stories effectively through comics.

Activity: Construct a comic story conveying your investigations into place-based evidence and science. The story should also address actions that can be taken to mitigate and build community climate change resiliency. The target audience should be your community, so think about who that is and how to best relate to them, using these four elements:

1. Interest (capture attention)
2. Evoke (communicate a message)
3. Relate (to audience)
4. Empower (inspire audience to act)

Rules:

1. No drawing stick people or animals! Draw basic shapes [insert example graphic] to create semblance of subject matter.
2. Do not judge your own or other's art! Be respectful. "Bad" art is subjective and therefore does not apply in this course.
3. Be creative and have fun!

Course Objectives: After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Communicate climate change and conservation findings through visual stories
- Demonstrate the ability to apply this framework to various subjects
- Recognize the capacity of visual storytelling as a communication platform

Additional resources:

- *Making Comics* by Lynda Barry, 2019
- *Syllabus; Notes from an Accidental Professor* by Lynda Barry, 2014.
- Climate Alliance Mapping Project: Digital Storytelling Resources: https://climatealliancemap.org/resources/digital-storytelling/