

Sustainability at EdCC

Teaching and Learning Activity

- 1) **ABSTRACT:** Sustainability in the Culinary Arts; Kevin Fogarty, kevin.fogarty@edcc.edu; Culinary Arts.
Herein lays an assignment designed to ask students to think about *Environmental Stewardship*. Specifically, the assignment is a research oriented debate about how we care for our soil and land when growing food. The opposing groups will discuss our modern farming practices: one will focus on the corporate farming method and one will focus on a small scale organic farming method. The three main ideas the students will consider are water use, chemical practices, and crop management.
- 2) **INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW:**
 - a) The activity described will be used in a “Sustainability in the Culinary Arts” class. We need to get students thinking about how their choices, as chefs and managers, affect the physical world around us. To this end, the student will explore the options available in the marketplace for food procurement and the student will investigate how each methodology affects our natural environment.
 - b) As the concept of current farming practice is so central to a culinary class, the activity will take place near the beginning of a quarter long course and will encompass two weeks.
 - i) Week one will entail the lecture and guest speaker portion.
 - ii) Week two will entail the preparation and debate portion.
 - c) The debate will be a researched (and supported) exploration of the current trends in farming and how they relate to *Environmental Stewardship*. The field of culinary arts is very concerned about local farming because of the overwhelming need to find the freshest and well cared for (and, thus, best) produce available.
- 3) **THE ACTIVITY:**
 - a) We will begin by discussing the history of farming and its attendant technologies and ideas from across the globe.
 - b) We will discuss the current method of large scale agriculture including pesticide and herbicide use, water usage, and monoculture growing.
 - c) We will discuss which historical concepts are relevant in the modern world: rotational crop management, polyculture growing, organic pest control, and targeted water usage.
 - d) We will include an organic farmer in our discussion of current practices.
 - e) The assignment will center on a debate of the pros and cons of current farming methods, with particular attention paid to productivity of the land under each system and labor needs under each system. The productivity and labor aspects will be a student-generated research area.
- 4) **ASSESSMENT:** will be based on a preparedness rubric and will include an essay on each students’ portion of the project.
- 5) **RESOURCES:** We will involve a local farmer who specializes in organics