

Sustainability Month 2020: Class Discussion / Essay Prompts

Purpose of this document: These materials were prepared to help support faculty who choose to integrate some of the Sustainability Month events being organized by the Office of Sustainability and campus partners into their courses. They are provided as a resource but faculty should not feel obligated to use them or discouraged from developing their own assignments, requirements or prompts!

Extra credit tracking method: Student participation will be tracked via pre-registration for events as well as via a digital “sign-in sheet” distributed through the Zoom chat window during the live event. Faculty may also choose to require students to complete a reflection essay using one or more of these prompts in order to earn assignment credit or extra credit.

[Climate Justice = Social Justice: Conversations Exploring the Intersections of People, Planet and Power](#)

Mon, Oct 5 – 12 - 1pm: *Keynote and Q & A with world renowned environmental justice leader Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali*

PROMPTS:

- What did you find most interesting about Dr. Ali’s story, background, or career and why?
- In what ways did Dr. Ali’s presentation expand your understanding of environmental justice issues? What new information did you learn that was most interesting, impactful, or motivating to you?
- Why is it important to engage diverse communities and people of color in the work of addressing environmental and climate change issues? What do you think happens when these stakeholders are left out of the conversation?

Wed, Oct 14 – 12 - 1pm: *Panel discussion with Youth Climate and Environmental Justice leaders Xiuhtezcatl Martinez & “Green Girl Leah” Thomas*

PROMPTS:

- What did you find most interesting about Xiuhtezcatl and Leah’s personal stories about what inspired them to become climate and environmental activists? What did you find most impressive and/or relatable?
- After hearing from Leah, how would you explain the term “intersectional environmentalism” to someone not familiar with the concept? How does it differ from a traditional approach to environmental advocacy?
- Why is it important for young people, people of color, and indigenous people to be engaged and recognized as leaders in the environmental and climate movement?

[Why Your Vote Matters](#)

Tues, Oct 20 – 1:30 - 2:45pm: *Voter education and get out the vote event with U.S. Senator Cory Booker and the California League of Conservation Voters*

PROMPTS:

- What role does voting play in creating a more just, equitable and sustainable country, both locally and on a national scale?
- What was the single most interesting, surprising, impactful or motivating thing you learned from Senator Booker's remarks and why?
- What did you learn about the California League of Conservation Voters? Why are organizations like it important to our democratic process?

Sustainability Month @ the Beach

Thurs, Oct 1 – 12 - 1pm: *Drive Electric Lunch & Learn*

PROMPTS:

- What did you learn about the pros and cons of electric vehicle ownership?
- On September 23, California Governor Gavin Newsom [issued an Executive Order](#) stating that in 2035 all vehicles sold in the state must be zero emissions vehicles. What are some of the possible economic, social, political and/or environmental impacts of this order?

Fri, Oct 16 – 11am - 12pm: Reducing Food Waste – Q & A with Registered Dietitian (via Instagram Live)

PROMPT:

- What tips did you learn about preparing healthy meals while also reducing food waste? What, if any, do you plan to try yourself?

Mon, Oct 19 – 12 -1:30pm: Edible Garden Cooking Workshop

PROMPTS:

- What tips did you learn about edible gardening and cooking with home-grown produce?
- Do you think that home-gardening is an important strategy for addressing climate and environmental challenges? Why or why not?

Fri, Oct 23 – 1 -2pm: *Bike the Town – Becoming a Bike Commuter*

PROMPT:

- What was the most useful thing you learned about bike commuting? How likely are you to bike more often because of the information you learned?