Share Your Voice

Overview

The primary goal of the Earthducation project is to create a global narrative of the intersections between education and sustainability. People around the world are encouraged to share their opinions and stories on the Environetwork, an easy-to-use online environment where these stories are recorded, stored, and shared. It all starts with your voice. The only way we will be able to accomplish this goal is with your help. Browse through the Environetwork to view current perspectives and stories, and then add your own.

*Education is like outer space because it never ends. You always learn even when you are not in school.*

Fourth Grader, Rosemount, MN, Environetwork (2011)

ACTIVITY

You will need access to computers with webcams, Internet access, and microphones to complete this activity.

1. Go to the Environetwork (http://lt.umn.edu/environetwork) and listen to others’ posted responses and stories to the question on the Earthducation website. Search stories for common themes (e.g., water). Students can do this activity individually, in small groups, or as a class.
   - What common ideas are shared across stories?
   - What different ideas are shared across stories?
   - Discuss why there are commonalities and differences.

2. Post, project, and/or pose the question, “How do education and sustainability intersect in your life?” Brainstorm your personal responses to this question.
   - Depending on level of students, review /discuss the meaning(s) of the words, “education” and “sustainability.”

3. Add your own opinions and stories to the Environetwork. Follow the prompts on the screen.
   - Supply your first name, city, state/territory/providence, country
   - Take your photo
   - Record your story!
   - Review your video. If you wish, you can record it again, or move to the next step.
   - Add tags to your story to help people search for your video
Hints
› Don’t be shy. Your opinion matters, and we want to hear what you have to say.
› Practice, rerecord, be yourself!
› Jot down notes before you record your video so you know what you want to say.
› Learners should not share their last names if they are under 13 years old.

Additional Resources
› Green Education Foundation (GEF) provides curriculum and resources to K-12 students and teachers with the goal of challenging youth to think holistically and critically about global environmental, social, and economic concerns and solutions: http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org
› Example “kid” definitions of sustainability: http://www.googolpower.com/content/free-learning-resources/environmental-education/definitions-of-sustainability-for-children