



Case Example from HKBU

Subject area: Biology

Course title(s): Introduction to Environmental Sciences

Course code(s): BIOL2035

A role play was brought to the classroom of Introduction to Environmental Sciences housing fifty Year 2 local Hong Kong science majors. Students were grouped randomly and casted the roles of representatives from a community, an environmental organisation, an international bank or a (biotechnology) company. They were asked to read up the backgrounds, concerns, and initiatives of their roles in the environmental aspect and present them to their classmates. Assessment was done through peer evaluation on both their presentation skills and knowledge of a given scenario. Apart from promoting active learning, the role play serves significantly to expose students to global practices, which could hopefully be employed as case examples for comparisons and references at their senior years.

The teacher further enriched the role play by aligning the characters strategically. Students had to present on behalf of the key global stakeholders which may have conflict of interests over one another. There was, for instance, one group responsible for engineering a type of bacteria that moderated climate; one developing a software that tracked greenhouse gas emission; and one criticising the use of technology as environmental activists. By putting the students in the unusual lens of a remote location or institution and calling attention to the dynamics between the stakeholders, they can develop a genuine awareness of how actions of local communities affect the global environment.

The majority of students found the activity engaging. The teacher was also glad to see how the rising awareness of local-global interaction inspired students to mitigate impacts of climate change by altering their personal consumption habits.



Dr. Uchenna Ogbonnaya
Department of Biology, Institute of Bioresource and Agriculture, HKBU
uchennaogb@hkbu.edu.hk

Cite this item:

CoP – ITL. (2019, Jan). *Case example of Dr. Uchenna Ogbonnaya*. Retrieved from <https://www.cetl.hku.hk/cop-itl/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DrUchennaOgbonnaya.pdf>.