

Integrating the Common Theme into Your Course

Jennifer Beasley, Sarah Lang, Beverly Linde, Gayle Williams

August 5, 2010

IUPUI

**CENTER FOR TEACHING
AND LEARNING**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Consortium for Learning and Scholarship
Indianapolis

Overview

- [The Common Theme Project](#) (Gayle Williams)
- Book Overview (Sarah Lang)
- Integrating the Book into Your Course (Jennifer Beasley)
- Faculty Example (Beverly Linde)
- Potential Controversies (Sarah Lang)
- Questions

The No Impact Project

- Consumption
- Energy
- Food
- Transportation
- Water

Integrating the Book into Your Course

Themes generated during discussion

- Disposability
- Inequities (money/access)
- Unintended positive consequences
- Family and personal relationships
- Becoming part of your location
- How technology should be used
- Ethics (environmental/religious)
- Achieving balance
- Transitions to a new life
- Figuring out who you want to be
- Happiness
- Consumerism vs. community
- Individualism vs. collective)
- Sustainability of change
- Culture/Expectations vs. change
- Alienation
- Modern-day decision-making
- Self-awareness

How can you incorporate these ideas into your course?

Handling Potential Controversies

Just starting with the cover of the book...what might give students pause?

The 8th item on Google Search for “No Impact Man Freshman Reading”

“Want lefty propaganda bashing business, whining about the environment or just being insipid, and you have plenty of choices. Four colleges are even telling you to read about “No Impact Man,” the idiot who tried to have no impact on the environment for a year including cutting out toilet paper. He then wrote a book that was printed on (drum roll please) paper. Perhaps he could have sped up the process and just used some of his future books.”

- Dan Gainor (6/23/2010)

Serving Up Liberal Gobbledygook to Incoming Freshmen

Other potential controversies?

See references for dealing with difficult dialogues....

References

- Difficult Dialogues
 - [Bibliography](#)
 - [Tips](#)
- [No Impact Project](#)
- [No Impact Project, For Educators](#)
- [No Impact Project Film Clips](#) (password noimpact)
- [Guiding Questions from The Ohio State University](#)
- [Reading Group Guide from MacMillan/Picador](#)
- [Reading Resources from UNC Wilmington](#)