

STUDENTS TEACHING COMPOSTING

PROJECT A: Compost Presentation

Description

Compost demonstrations and workshops can be given at school fairs, community events, farmers' markets, school assemblies, or in other classrooms. Students can target specific populations they want to address. Examples might be parents, teachers, administrators, gardeners, children's groups, or neighborhood organizations.

Procedure

1. In groups or individually write down the information you think is necessary to teach someone to compost.
2. Create a master list of the information needed to be covered.

Divide this information into categories to help organize the presentation. A suggested format is:

What is Compost;

Why Compost;

How to Compost;

Troubleshooting; and

Questions and Answers.

3. Discuss what teaching format you will use. Will you have a workshop or a demonstration? Will it be participatory or lecture style? How much time will you have? What will the setting be like? Will it be outdoors or indoors? Who will be your audience? How many people will there be? What kind

of background information do you think participants might bring with them? What types of materials and visual aids will you use, i.e., drawings, demonstrations, tools, materials, etc.?

4. Prepare an outline for the presentation.
5. Assign the tasks of researching, developing needed materials, and presenting portions of the presentation in practice sessions to individuals or small groups.
6. Practice and rehearse the presentation, paying attention to timing. Give each other feedback, refine, and make necessary changes.
7. After the presentation, do an evaluation. Write or discuss what was successful, what was not, how you felt, and what you would change if you did the presentation again.

For Younger Students

Students can present their worm box at Back-to-School night, to another classroom, or in the cafeteria at lunch. Students could also perform a song or skit and communicate why or how to compost at a school talent show.

Source: Composting Across the Curriculum, Marin County Department of Solid Waste



PROJECT B: Compost Pamphlet

Description

Written material explaining why and how to compost can be developed and distributed throughout the community and at compost workshops and demonstrations. Developing pamphlets and other written material is an exercise in combining writing and graphics to convey information. If students have access to a computer, they can practice desktop publishing; if not, they can cut and paste.

Procedure

1. As individuals or in small groups, brainstorm and write down the information you feel is necessary to compost successfully.
2. Gather examples of other pamphlets and informational materials to get ideas about different formats and styles.
3. Decide what information will be included in the pamphlet.
4. Decide on the format and style of the pamphlet. How will it be

organized? How long will it be? What drawings will be included? What type size will you use?

5. Assign individuals or small groups the task of researching, writing, or illustrating portions of the pamphlet.

6. Compile all the information and illustrations, and edit into a rough draft.

7. Get feedback, refine, proofread, and edit again until you have a final draft.

8. Produce the pamphlets using a computer, typewriter, or copy

machine. Translate the pamphlet into other languages spoken in your community.

Other Ideas

1. Draw pictures of the nutrient cycle with a compost slogan such as "Rot is Hot" or "Don't Throw It Away."
2. Write letters explaining why or how to compost and send them to a friend or relative.
2. Produce a children's book explaining why and how to compost.

