A “Real World” Writing Project for English 101

By

Danica Stith
ACADEMIC SERVICE-LEARNING

- Workshop with Julie Plaut (Minnesota Campus Compact)
- Brainstorming with other teachers and community organization leaders
“One way of making education more holistic is to get outside the classroom and off the campus. It interrupts the programming 12 years of classroom conditioning automatically calls up; the change in environment changes everything. The class becomes a social unit; students become more fully rounded human-beings – not just people who either know the answer or don’t know it. Inside the classroom, it’s one kind of student that dominates; outside, it’s another. Qualities besides critical thinking can come to light: generosity, steadfastness, determination, practical competence, humor, ingenuity, imagination. Tying course content to the world outside offers a real-world site for asking theoretical questions; it answers students’ need to feel that their education is good for something other than a grade point average.”
The Office of Community Engagement

- 67 organizations in the Mankato area that are affiliated with the Community Engagement Office
- Marilyn Lott- Assistant Director
- Campus Kitchens
CLASS PROJECT

- Going through the booklet from the Community Engagement Office
- Picking one organization to research
- Writing a Brief
FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

- “I didn’t know there were so many hungry people in Mankato.”

- “I really liked finding out more about this organization. Can I get extra credit if I volunteer there?!”

- “I’m really glad you made us do this.”
**Future Plans**

- Working with a specific organization in Mankato
- Inviting the director of said organization to come and speak to the class
- Joining the last two papers of the semester into one, joint project