

HCAO Research and Civic Engagement Project for Educators Class Handout

Project Description:

This project includes researching health care costs, participating in a civic engagement activity with Health Care for All Oregon, and submitting a final report. As part of your civic engagement requirement, you will have the opportunity to work with the Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) action team. HCAO is a coalition of more than sixty organizations, whose purpose is to work to create a comprehensive, equitable, publicly funded, high-quality, universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon. See <http://hcao.org/history/> for background information.

Goals:

1. To give students a civic engagement opportunity working with the statewide organization, Health Care for All Oregon.
2. To create awareness of issues related to the cost of health care in the U.S.

Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate their learning from a diversity of communities and cultures.
2. Students will effectively express themselves in oral and written communication within a civic context to further civic action.
3. Students will demonstrate their ability and commitment to work collaboratively across and within community contexts and structures to achieve a civic aim.
4. Students will connect and extend knowledge of cost analysis and budgeting to draw conclusions about a civic aim.

Research Activity: Read the following article and create a fact to bring to class to discuss.

Health Care Costs: A Primer

<http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/7670-03.pdf>.

Civic Engagement Activity: Each student must select one civic engagement activity from the list below:

- Survey 5 people using the HCAO questionnaire
- Participate in a tabling event (photo petitions, handing out info etc)
- Participate in an informational session (e.g., house party)
- Write a letter to a state representative.

Final Report: The body of your report should be a minimum of 3 pages, single-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins. The appendix should include your fact sheet, proof of civic engagement documents (if applicable) and bibliography. Make sure you site sources.

Part I of your paper addresses outcomes 1-3: Explain briefly what the HCAO is about. What do they mean by "Health Care is a Human Right"? Describe your community engagement activity and what you learned from it.

Part II of your paper addresses outcomes 2 and 4: Your paper should include the following:

1. A comparison of health care costs to other industrialized countries.
2. An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of a single payer system.
3. A summary of your findings and conclusion.

Project – Kim Sorenson, Faculty
Eastern Oregon University
Oregon Rural Action
Health Care Reform Action Team

Cheryl Simpson, Mobilization Chairperson
1108 G. Ave. La Grande, Oregon 97850
541-663-6468, mobilization@hcao.org