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Geog 696

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Moderation of "Science and the 'Good Citizens': Community Based Scientific Literacy

by Stuart Lee & Wolff-Michael Roth

- 1) The purpose is to reconfigure the notion of science literacy in service of good citizenship.
- 2) They used the term "mediated" meaning that a certain activity does not exist in itself but is supported and enabled by particular circumstances. The term mediating is used differently than normal.
- 3) The beginning material was denser while the part introducing the case study flowed more.
- 4) The intention of the project to make stewardship compelling yet attractive and fun, increasing community participation and helping to reverse the environmental destructive trend
- 5) The hands-on experience was a new way of engaging the landscape for most people. In my landscape restoration class, we have read several authors who advocate "extinction of experience" which basically means that people are losing touch with nature and they need to experience it hands on in order to appreciate it.
- 6) The three elements of stewardship discourse are science, morality, and stewardship.
- 7) Do you agree? Can you think of any more elements they are missing?
 - teamwork/cooperation,
- 8) Anything they lacked to mention in the article?
 - Follow-up work to see if anyone came back to join the cause and participate in the restoration; the end seemed to be dangling. They were also missing stating
 - didn't point out flaws in their argument
 - no posing of future research questions
 - did not mention any other things they are interested in finding out
 - not much a methods section

Interesting points in the article:

- 1) Good way to introduce science literacy in real life and good application of examples
- 2) They did a good job connecting science with everyday science and connect people in the community
- 3) They make people feel connected to science without feeling intimidated.
- 4) They talked about the faults in practical science on page 16 and the tone changed abruptly. The words were loaded and came out of nowhere. It was contradictory because they were trying to pull ideas from science and apply to real life yet they were smashing science. This argument was short-sighted because the problem lies not in the practice of science but in the education system
- 5) One of the methods is participant observation. This kind of method is a very hard methodology. There was also an interview method.
- 6) "Moral" is questionable. We are all moral agents- whether we think morally or not. Just because you understand does not mean you are a steward, but you get motivated and you understand more continuously. There are different moral systems. Where do we get our moral sense?
- 7) What level of education were the "children" whom participated at the event?