

ESL GREEN CONTACT ASSIGNMENT

Sustainable Food - developed by **Kelley Robart**, ESL Instructor at Studies in American Language, San Jose State University

One of our main topics this session has been sustainable food. This assignment will take you outside the classroom and give you a first-hand look at community gardens and farms. You will get a chance to see what is happening locally with sustainable farming, meet new people, speak English to native speakers, and help the community by volunteering.

The Assignment

This assignment has four parts.

1. Background Research

Research the farm you plan to visit. Look for the following information:

- History
- Goals or mission
- What do they do?
- How is the food distributed and to whom?
- Who participates?
- Are there ways to participate besides volunteering? Does the farm offer classes, workshops or internships?
- What other projects is the farm involved in?

2. Farm Participation

- Check the farm's website or call to find out what times the volunteer sessions are. Choose a date that is convenient for everyone to visit. Some websites also tell you if you need to bring anything, or what kind of clothes you should wear.
- Don't worry if you don't have experience! They will tell you what you need to do.

3. Volunteer Interviews

- You should interview 3 or 4 volunteers. As people will be working, you can keep the interviews short – 5 or 6 questions should be enough.
- We will have a class workshop for you to prepare and practice your questions.

4. Oral Class Presentations

Prepare a short 5-10 minute presentation for the last day of class.

Before Visiting the Farm

Remember to do the following before you visit the farm.

- ✓ Research the farm.
- ✓ Confirm time and location.
- ✓ Call the farm to see if it's okay to take photographs.
- ✓ Prepare and practice your interview questions.

Presentation Format

Your presentation should include the following:

- A brief overview of the farm you visited
- Results of the questions you asked
- Visual aids -- please include photographs (if allowed) of your experience.
- A reflection on your experience

Here are some questions to consider for this section.

- Did you learn anything about sustainable farming from this experience?
- Did the experience increase your understanding of sustainable food?
- What did the experience make you think about?
- What is your opinion about community gardens / farms?
- Overall, how would you rate your experience?
- Would you recommend it to others?

FARMS – LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Sunnyvale

Full Circle Farm, 1055 Dunford Way, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

<http://www.fullcirclesunnyvale.org/>

San Jose

Veggielution Community Farm, 647 South King Road, San Jose, CA 95116

<http://www.veggielution.org/>

Los Altos

Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Lost Altos Hills, CA 94022

www.hiddenvilla.org

See students' slideshow of their visit to **Veggielution Community Farm**

<http://picasaweb.google.com/112971959295558636434/VeggielutionVolunteerProject#>

This contact assignment extends themes explored in lesson plan **Shopping Smart / Shopping Green** on locally grown food at www.kqed.org/eco-literacy