

EARTH JUSTICE DAY

by Scott Lankford

- Introduction** In a series of classes and activities culminating in an all-campus Earth Justice Day on April 17, 2013, Foothill College students and faculty together explored the often hidden, always-explosive links between environmental destruction and human slavery -- including contemporary child slavery from the Americas to Africa to Asia and Europe -- through a sequenced series of readings, research, writing, and all-campus discussions, debates, and events. The project placed special emphasis on the role of social media in catalyzing discussion and archiving events for wider distribution -- as well as cause-and-effect and intervention strategies demanding in-depth critical thinking and sophisticated analysis of complex factors.
- Courses** Designed for English 1A "College Reading and Writing" and English 1C "Advanced College Writing and Critical Thinking". Applicable to a wide variety of English, Humanities, and Social Sciences courses. Faculty fully participating -- along with their classes -- in the Foothill College Earth Justice Day Event included Sociology, English, History, Anthropology, and Biology.
- Essential Questions**
- What are the causal links between environmental destruction and globalized human slavery in the 21st Century?
 - What are the causal/historical links to previous forms of slavery prior to the 21st Century?
 - How can an in-depth understanding of these causes/effects inform effective interventions to help ameliorate both problems?
 - How can students best leverage their personal/academic strengths and perspectives to approach these problems effectively?
- Procedures**
- 1) Assigned Reading
 - 2) Independent Research
 - 3) Writing (both as in-class essay tests and as formal research papers)
 - 4) In-Class Presentations
- Assessment** Students were graded based on their formal writing, in-class presentations, and participation/leadership in Earth Justice Day events.
- Materials and Resources** For an overview of events, background materials, videos, and photos visit the Facebook page titled "Earth Justice Day at Foothill College at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Earth-Justice-Day-at-Foothill-College/436052529806166?ref=ts&fref=ts>