

Trinity College Dublin – Student Teacher Reflection on completion of the elective Development Education module

This development education module allowed me further my knowledge and understanding of Development education topics such as food scarcity, media representation and the UN's sustainable development goals. While I had some previous practical experience in taking part in Development Education related volunteering exchange projects and working with different Dev Ed organizations, I did not have any previous experience of teaching Dev Ed or incorporating it within the school environment. This module allowed me to see how Development education can easily be included within teaching and learning, and that many cross curricular links can be made between Dev Ed and Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate subjects, even in subjects where it is not immediately evident. Dev Ed can enhance other secondary school subject curriculums and add an additional "real world" element to students' classroom experiences. This aids with students' development at becoming "global citizens". After completing this module, I am now more inspired to be creative in designing workshops which combine Dev Ed and my curriculum subject. I also feel confident to run a Dev Ed workshop or take a TY module for a few weeks in this subject area myself, understanding now that I do not need to be a specialist on the topic, and I would have enough tools and resources to be able to act as a facilitator to the module. Dev Ed teaching methodologies such as active learning and critical thinking can also be incorporated within my major and minor subject lesson planning. I have seen how these techniques are more engaging for students and allow for more student-led and inquiry-based learning to occur. Using a variety of formats such as TED talk videos, Kahoot quiz and small group discussion can enhance and add variety to learning experiences. The think, pair and share activities allow students to share ideas in smaller groups before a wider feedback to the class. This allows for small more social interaction to occur and I can see how this may benefit shy or quieter students. I have discovered there is a lot of resource material available that can help in workshop design, and I am now more aware of where these sources are and how to analyse and incorporate them into the classroom. Several activities during this module have caused me to reflect on my own actions and whether I could be living more sustainably or consciously in terms of my impact with the world around me. The Social Dilemma movie for example was an eye-opening experience on my interaction and time spent with

technology and personal devices. The guest speaker on Climate change brought up some grave global concerns, highlighting how it is essential that action be taken now for future generations, as there is already irreversible damage caused to the environment by human processes. This has caused me to second-think my own impact in contributing to this effect. I am also more conscious of the distance several of the food products I usually eat are coming from, which sparks personal reflection about whether I should be living seasonably or eating only locally sourced produce to reduce my carbon footprint.