

D.B. REINHART ETHICS COMPETITION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE



VITERBO
UNIVERSITY

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Competition Overview

Jason Howard & Ryan Anderson are working with the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethical Leadership to host an ethics competition for Viterbo undergraduate students in conjunction with the Annual D.B. Reinhart ethics conference on The Ethical City April 4-6, 2019.

This project is designed to be student led and organized!!!!

The goal of the project is to help students make a contribution to the common good by advocating for social justice. Students can either identify a local/regional problem, practice, or issue that they think is unjust/unethical, or identify an institution/resource that is desperately needed in our community, formulate a morally responsible strategy to help remedy the problem, enact some feature of their recommendation through community engagement, and document their experience through a short video.

Students will work in groups of two to four and create a 5 minute video documentary that gives an overview of the group project. The videos will be presented as part of the Ethical City conference. First prize will receive \$1,000, second prize \$500 and third \$500. The winning videos will be posted on the Reinhart Institutes' webpage.

Details of the competition

- * The group should identify a local/regional problem, say something about the history of the problem and articulate what it is that makes it unethical/unjust, or explain what key resource/institution is lacking in our community that is needed, and give a moral justification of why this resource/institution is so important (using the tools of informed moral analysis).
- * The group should explain why this particular problem needs immediate attention or at least should be considered a top priority of the city and community of La Crosse/La Crosse County.
- * The group should come up with a service-learning plan that responds/helps remedy the problem or issue they identify.
- * The group should engage their local community in service learning directly related to the problem or issue they are examining and be able to explain what this experience has taught them about it and the impact of their service learning on addressing the problem. (It is expected that students will have engaged in significant community engagement in the local/regional community *before* the video presentation).
- * The group will create a documentary video that includes/highlights the points indicated above (of no longer than 5 min) to be shown at the Spring 2019 ethics conference.

Project Deadline

Projects needs to be completed by

March 25th

for review by the Ethical City Conference
(April 4)

HIPPI Grant for faculty

- Faculty are eligible for up to a \$400 stipend if they incorporate the competition into their class.
- In order to receive the full stipend amount, faculty need to:
 - Attend the Jan. 10 in-service competition overview
 - Attend one workshop on constructing the video documentary (mid- February) or have Jeff Nyseth/Mark Seitz visit your class room and discuss this with you directly
 - Include the project in your syllabus (either as an option or mandatory assignment) and/or post details about it on Moodle that students can access.
 - Introduce the basic parameters of the competition to students (this is a student lead project, so they are in charge, but you do need to introduce it to them and let them know how it fits into the class assessment/assignments).

Options for including the ethics competition into your class

1. Integrated Mandatory Assignment (Class Requirement)

- For example: all students must participate in the project and the project/participation will count toward course requirements.

2. Swap-out Assignment

- Participating in the competition would replace a major classroom assignment (e.g. rather than write a research essay, you can create the video project).

3. Optional Bonus Assignment

4. Partial in-class completion

- Students would complete the initial research for the project, but would not submit an entry into the competition.

What if you don't teach Ethics!?!?! Or Social Justice

- Remember the project is student led!
- However, instructors can stipulate the kind of issues students need to investigate to better align with course content.
 - I. Earth Science/Environmental Science (constraint could be that the project needs to focus on an environmental problem)
 - II. Nursing (constraint could be that the project needs to focus on issues related to health care)

Resources to get started

2018 Compass Now:
La Crosse County Needs Report

Great Rivers United Way Community Assessment Resources

La Crosse County Community Health Improvement Plan 2016-2021

Jason Howard, Ryan Anderson, Jeff Nyseth, & Mark Seitz

What's Next

- Keep in mind students need to engage in significant community engagement the project for example:
 - Raising awareness
 - Advocacy
 - Meet with key community stakeholders
 - Enact a community service project
- Students need to plan/prepare to make a 5 minute video documenting their project, that identifies and explains the social issue, highlights their experiences (including aspects of what they learned from their service), and provides future recommendations.
- Students can check out video equipment from the library if needed or simply use their phone to create the video.
- Jeff Nyseth will be available to assist faculty and students in construction of their video documentary. Mark Seitz will also be available as a resource.
- All videos become the intellectual property of Viterbo University.