



Series: Discovering Your Educational Community Resources

**In Our Own Backyard:
Destinations That Enrich the Curriculum
Generic Syllabus**

EDUO 9804 One Semester Credit/Unit

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A syllabus is also available for specific U.S. regions. Select **Register** for a list of regions.

Course Description

Teachers will explore community destinations of interest to students, such as zoos, aquariums, missions, botanical gardens and other cultural, scientific and educational institutions. They will then determine how their experience can be utilized to enhance their class or school wide curriculum.

Course Objectives

Teachers will:

1. visit four local educational community venues
2. research information about the sites before visiting
3. obtain information from the visits and the research to determine if:
 - a. the sites are worthy of a student field trip
 - b. classroom lessons can be developed from the experience
4. evaluate the experience as to its relevance to an educator

Grading Rubric: Written Response Rubric

Exemplary: Met and Exceeds Expectations A+ to A-	Acceptable: Meets Expectations B+ to B-	Unacceptable: Needs Improvement. Must be resubmitted.
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated.	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment.	Few relevant ideas connected to the assignment, some ideas unclear.
Very well organized	Is generally well organized	Shows little organization
Reflective piece covers numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience	Some facts and specific details of the learning experience are included.	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included.
Free of Spelling or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling or grammatical errors.	Numerous spelling or grammatical errors. Writing is difficult to read.

Instructions for coursework submission:

Written Assignments

Your coursework should be created in a document that can be emailed directly to the instructor. Coursework should be typed, double-spaced with size 12 font. Reflection write-ups should be one or more pages in length and address every question in the coursework. Pictures and documents may be scanned and posted along with your Word or PDF file of written assignments. Label everything carefully with the assignment number and make sure that your name and email address are easy to locate.

Visit four sites and submit responses for EACH location.

IMPORTANT - Camera images can be very large files. Save the images in lower definition resolution in order to keep document file sizes down for emailing.

For assistance email jherz@dominicancaonline.com

EMAIL your completed documents to the instructor's email listed on the syllabus you are working from.

PART ONE – *The Venue*

You can choose a site which is not on the lists from the websites below; however no site can be used that was used in another “Discovering Our Community Educational Resources” class.

Click on the websites below – then click on your state and look for venues in your area

<http://www.officialusa.com/stateguides/zoos/>

http://touristinformationdirectory.com/united_states/Aquariums/public_aquarium.htm

<http://www.gardenvisit.com/gardens/in/usa>

* A **cultural center** is an organization, building or complex that promotes [culture](#) and [arts](#). Cultural centers can be neighborhood [community arts](#) organizations, private facilities, government-sponsored, or [activist](#)-run.

1. Name and address of the venue visited
2. Briefly describe the venue
3. Why did you choose this venue to visit

PART TWO – *Evidence of your visit*

PICTURES OF YOURSELF

4. in front of the entrance of the venue with its name visible or any other recognizable landmark
5. examining displays and exhibits
6. with an employee or volunteer from the venue

DOCUMENTS

7. your entrance ticket to the venue and/or pamphlets, brochures or any other information obtained from the destination
8. Identify your research resource(s) used before the visit. –websites/ books/ newsprint/ other sources

PART THREE – *Knowledge* What

did you learn from:

9. Your research?
10. Your visit?
11. The person pictured with you in #6?

PART FOUR – *Process*

1. Is the venue suitable for a classroom field trip - Why/ or why not?
2. List all of the information that you uncovered at the venue and in your research that you could use in a class lesson.
3. How will you use it?

PART FIVE – *Evaluation*

1. Summarize and evaluate your experience visiting and researching this venue as to its value for an educator.

Not Required

Do you have suggestions that would improve the experience?

Would you recommend this class to other teachers? Why/why not