A Living Laboratory: Activity Template

We are creating a cross-disciplinary collection of teaching activities that use the best practice approaches fostered in the "Living Lab": adoption of City Tech's General Education Student Learning Outcomes, George Kuh's High Impact Educational Practices, place-based learning, open digital pedagogy (the OpenLab), and formal assessment methods.

Share your best practices with your colleagues! Use this form to record a favorite activity; an activity can be as small as an in-class exercise or as large as a semester-long project. Your description can be short or extensive – take as much space as you need.

Activity Title:	What is that? Where did it come from? Where does it go?
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Activity Description:
Provide a brief description of the activity.

The activity is a semester-long project in which students working in groups of 3 or 4 will pick a product and do some research to find out more about the origin of the product and other issues related to the product. The group findings will be presented on digital posters that will be uploaded to OpenLab.

Learning Goals:
What do you aim to achieve with this activity?

The primary goal of the project is to get students to think more deeply about the products that they buy, the companies that make them, and the impact of these products on the world in which we live. A secondary goal is to provide an opportunity for students to pool their talents to achieve a common goal.

Timing:
At what point in the lesson or semester to you use this activity? How much classroom time do you devote to it? How much out-of-class time is expected?

This activity will be introduced at the beginning of the semester. During the semester, students will have a couple of related small assignments before the poster is due. All of the work on the activity will be done outside of class

Logistics:
What preparation is needed for this activity? What instructions do you give students?

Each student will be assigned to a group at the beginning of the semester and provided with a sheet detailing the assignment and what is expected of them.

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General Education SLOs:
Which of City Tech's General Education Student Learning Outcomes does this activity address?

1. Communicate in diverse settings and groups, using written and visual means.

2. Work with teams, including those of diverse composition. Build consensus.

3. Demonstrate expanded cultural and global awareness and sensitivity.

High Impact Educational Practices:
Which of George Kuh's High Impact Educational Practices does this activity incorporate? Does it use the OpenLab for open digital pedagogy? Does it include place-based learning? Choose all that apply and/or add your own.

George Kuh's High Impact Educational Practices:
☐ *First-year seminars and experiences*   ☐ *Common intellectual experiences (core curriculum)*
☐ *Learning communities*   ☐ *Writing-intensive courses*
 X *Collaborative assignments and projects*   ☐ *Undergraduate research*
☐ *Diversity and global learning ("difficult differences")* ☐ *Service- or community-based learning*
☐ *Internships*   ☐ *Capstone courses and projects*

X *Open Digital Pedagogy (the OpenLab)*   ☐ **Place-Based Learning**

☐ **Other (please describe):**

Assessment:
How do you assess this activity? What assessment measures do you use? Do you include your evaluation in grade calculations?

The assessment of this activity will consist of two parts. The first part involves each group member assessing the value added to the project by each member of the group including her/himself. The second part involves each group evaluating the posters of all the groups, including their own, using the rubric that will be handed out with the assignment.

Reflection:
How has this assignment impacted your teaching? What challenges did you encounter and how did you address them? What feedback did students provide? How would you imagine this activity being used in different disciplines?

Since I have not tried an activity like this in any of my classes before, I imagine that it will undergo some revisions over time.

Additional Information:
Please share any additional comments and further documentation of the activity - e.g. assignment instructions, rubrics, examples of student work, etc. These could be in the form of PDF or Word files, links to posts or files on the OpenLab, etc.