

GROUP #1

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Human Well-being

Human well-being is inextricably bound with environmental quality. Humans are a part of the natural order. Humans, and the systems they create—societies, political systems, economies, religions, cultures, technologies—impact the total environment and are impacted by the environment. Since humans are a part of nature rather than outside it, they are challenged to recognize the ramifications of their interdependence with Earth systems.

GROUP #2

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Importance of Where One Lives

Beginning close to home, learners connect with, explore, and understand their immediate surroundings. They appreciate the nature around them wherever they live. The sensitivity, knowledge, and skills needed for this local connection to both the natural and built environment provides a base for moving into larger systems, broader issues, and an expanding understanding of connections and consequences.

GROUP #3

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Lifelong Learning

Critical and creative thinking, decision making, and communication, as well as collaborative learning, are emphasized. Development and ongoing use of a broad range of skills and practices are essential for active and meaningful learning, both in school and over a lifetime.

GROUP #4

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Environmental education instruction is welcoming and respectful to all learners and embraces the principles of fairness and justice. EE is designed to employ and engage people with different backgrounds, experiences, abilities, and perspectives through culturally relevant and responsive instruction. EE actively works to create equitable learning opportunities and promotes the dignity and worth of people of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, incomes, language groups, marital statuses, ages, geographic locations, philosophies, and veteran statuses.

GROUP #5

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Sustainable Future

Supporting the Brundtland Report's vision of creating a more sustainable society, learning reflects on the past, examines the present, and is oriented to the future. Learning focuses on environmental, social, and economic responsibility as drivers of individual, collective, and institutional choices and strives to “meet the needs of the present without compromising our ability to meet the needs of the future.”

GROUP #6

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Systems and Systems Thinking

Systems thinking helps make sense of a large and complex world. A system is made up of parts. Each part can be understood separately. The whole, however, is understood only by examining the relationships and interactions among the parts. Earth is a complex system of interacting physical, chemical, and biological processes. Organizations, individual cells, communities of animals and plants, and families can all be understood as systems. And systems can be nested within other systems.

GROUP #7

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Roots in the Real World

Learners develop knowledge and skills through direct experience with their community, the environment, current environmental issues, and society. Investigation, analysis, and problem solving are essential activities and are most effective when relevant to learners' lives and rooted in their experiences.

Group #8

1. Introduce yourselves to each other.
2. Read your assigned Essential Underpinning
3. Discuss:
 - What's the most important take away for you?
 - Any cognitive dissonance —something that doesn't fit with what you already know?
 - How does this apply to your work within your organization?

Integration and Infusion

Disciplines from the natural sciences, social sciences, and the humanities are interconnected through the environment and environmental issues. Environmental education offers opportunities to integrate disciplinary learning, fostering a deeper understanding of concepts and skills. EE works best when infused across the curriculum, rather than being treated as a separate or isolated experience.

