

HW3: Changing Recycling Behavior

DUE: Tuesday Feb. 15, turn-in on paper at start of class, 10 points
(Also be sure you have an electronic version available for use in mentor session.)

Overview:

We will soon be spending some time learning about PSU's recycling program and we will see firsthand some of the problems in the Broadway residence halls. These problems include "trashed" recycling rooms (pun intended) and significant contamination of garbage in the recycling bins, as well as recyclable materials in the garbage.

Our task will be to help improve this situation by working with PSU recycles in a service learning project. In order to prepare for discussions we will have with them, you will write a short essay summarizing your ideas and thoughts on this problem. At its heart this problem is about understanding and then changing behavior.

Assignment:

In this assignment you will write a 500-700 word paper (standard format specifications apply—see syllabus). Your paper should address two main issues:

1. Your thoughts as to what are the main causes of these problems (the state of recycling rooms and the wrong things being put in recycling and garbage containers).
2. What can be done to encourage better behavior among your peers in the residence halls with respect to these problems?

In your answers to these questions, you may want to distinguish different causes and different solutions for different types of problems, including different types of contamination.

Be sure your essay has an introductory paragraph that helps the reader understand your main points and what to expect in the rest of your essay, and a conclusion that summarizes your main points. Be sure you address both your thoughts on causes of these problems and your thoughts on how best to encourage better behavior. Even if you think changing behavior might be difficult, do not neglect this part of your essay. Put forward your best ideas for improving behavior, even if you think improvement may be modest.

You might get some ideas on these two areas by considering your own experiences with waste disposal in the residence halls, including times your own behavior may have been less than perfect, and what you think might influence you to be a better and more tidy recycler.

The assignment will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) Thoughtful consideration of the two issue areas, including the creativity of your solution ideas
- 2) The clarity of your writing (be sure to proofread and edit your first drafts)