

Here are questions that reflect the type of topics we feel were important and could be used to generate discussion:

Describe how you overcame the challenges of working in a team.

Why is proper planning important before starting a project? What are some ways to ensure that your plan will not be rejected by a teacher or customer?

Describe how a project has helped your perspective change.

How has your view changed/what have you learned about people who come from different cultures/languages.

Share something that you have learned either about the subject area, yourself, others, the world...

Projects:

We are comfortable with students presenting on either semester of exploratory. We have compiled a list of what students did with Lupita (to the best of our ability) and

First Semester Environmental Engineering Projects:

Ideal Room Project

Students work within a group to design their ideal workspace. The students learned the basics of design, drafting, group work, technical writing, and scale modeling. They also practiced critique methods in order to improve project outcome and experience.

Recycling Bin Design Project

Students gained an understanding of the engineering design and development process. They applied the various steps needed to create an educated, well thought design for recycling bins. The bins were intended to help launch the recycling campaign in our school through designs that were fun, easy, and informative.

Environmental Research Center Design Project

As a class, the students were tasked to design an Environmental Research Center (ERC) that helps us understand the connections we have with our environment and community; provides research opportunities and solves relevant issues regarding our environment. In individual groups, students designed one area for the ERC which will be incorporated into the overall design for the Engineering Research Center. The following areas were created: Aquaculture (Fresh/Marine), Soil (arid/wet), Hydroponics, Wastewater Bio Ponds, Environmental Lab, Engineering Lab, Commons Area, and overall building shell. Their designs were compiled in a design book for the Environmental Research Center.

Second Semester Projects Environmental Engineering Projects:

Garden Design Project

Students were tasked to engineer things that would help a partner school's garden. The schools had very basic gardens that needed enhancement. The items students designed promoted the growth of plants and attracted wildlife such as birds and butterflies. They also helped the environment through protection and conservation of its resources, remediation and removal of any possible pollution, and development of a sustainable garden. Groups conducted site visits, assessed customer needs, proposed solutions, presented designs, and built their designs either in-school or on site.

Green Home Design Project

Students were tasked to design a green home using the design principles of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). Groups were assigned specific areas of LEED certification to research and apply in their designs: Location, Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Air Quality, and Materials and Resources. Students created scaled drawings and models to accompany their designs.

Spanish Semester 1:

Day of the Dead (research/powerpoint)

Famous Spanish Author (research/poster)

Stocking Project (made a felt stocking)

Short Story Project (wrote a creative short story in Spanish)

Spanish Semester 2:

Yo soy project

In preparation for this project we looked at the work of some famous Spanish-speaking artists/poets, and we also discussed the grammar necessary to talk about ourselves ("to be," adjectives, metaphors) We wrote an acrostic poem with our names, and some students chose to write a more detailed poem about themselves. We then created self-portraits. These could take a number of forms ranging from paintings to photos to collages. The culminating moments of this project were a gallery walk at school and our presentation of work at the Festival del Sol.

El último telón

After visiting Chicano Park and writing a creative short story about the murals there, students got into groups and chose one of their stories or combined stories to convert into a short children's theater style play. As a part of this project we discussed what it means to be "chicano," the history of Chicano Park and the struggle of Mexican Americans to define themselves in our society. and we talked about some influential figures in chicano history/culture. We performed our play for our families and the HTHCV community at Veteran's Elementary School.