CAUSE IN A CLASSROOM: STAND UP FOR CHILDREN IN CRISIS

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Learning Community LC 20 English 100 & Sociology 101
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WHY WE ARE DOING IT:
Through Bus 174, a documentary film about street children in Brazil, we are examining the sociological and psychological issues that jeopardize the lives of these children. The cause allows us to close the gap between awareness and action. That way, our involvement is both educational and humanitarian.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?
We’re using Facebook’s Cause Application as an online, interactive journal, where the students write about the issues confronting street children in Latin America. Alongside those journal-style postings, we are using the Cause to raise money and awareness for malnourished children in Guatemala. All donated money goes directly to UNICEF, which helps to keep these children alive and flourishing.

HOW DOES IT WORK?
Based on the sociological and psychological issues presented in Bus 174, the professor regularly posts questions on the classroom Cause. The students respond to the questions in 100 – 150 word, journal-style answers. Sometimes the students react to previous postings, sometimes to the professor’s. This online journal creates a lot of interactivity among all writers.

OUR RESULTS:
Students are writing more prodigiously – and thoughtfully – as their published content is meaningful and reaches an audience of peers. The professor is able to instantly identify the strengths and weaknesses of all the writers, which helps to inform where the classroom lesson plans need to go.

HOW CAN YOU START A CAUSE IN YOUR CLASSROOM?
Select a social issue that is vital to your classroom-based content. Go to Facebook’s Cause application to select a non-profit whose mission addresses a special need that is relevant to the content you’ve chosen. Set up your Facebook Cause, and then post your written assignment in the bulletin section of that Cause. Alongside those postings, the students have an opportunity to raise money and awareness for the non-profit you have selected to support.

“It is very important to learn and help at the same time.”
Kawtar Aaddi

“Working as a writer and fundraiser in English 100 with Professor Leibman was profoundly educational and joyful because the writing was about reflecting on Bus 174, which helped me to improve summarizing and expanding my ideas in class.”
Luiraldy Castillo

“It’s the first time for me to use Facebook’s Cause. I love it because we had fun during class and we helped children who need help. I never imagined how hard the street children have it. After we saw the movie, we received a lot of information about street children. Good luck to them!”
Ting Cui