Vanguard Project
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Strategies
◆ Explore ways to incorporate place/culture-based assignments into my ENG 100 course.
◆ Identify readings that include place/culture based perspectives on topics for ENG 100 narrative, analysis, argument, literary, and research essays.
◆ Select topics for ENG 100 essays -- food, place, sustainability, and culture.
◆ Work on more effective ways to chunk information for the students so that they can “digest” them better—perhaps having them look at ways of learning to see if they can identify with one of those ways or find ways to motivate themselves to complete assignments.
◆ Sequence assignments to move the students from personal experience/reflection toward analysis and synthesis.

How it worked/Outcomes
◆ Do a survey at the beginning of the semester to assess students’ attitudes and awareness about place and culture.
◆ Do an end-of-semester survey to assess any changes.
◆ Students will also write reflections about assignments.
◆ Share ideas with other instructors who are interested in incorporating place/culture based assignments into their courses.

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Motivation/Purpose
◆ Help students find ways to meet the challenges of English 100.
◆ Find ways to motivate and engage students more through place/culture-based assignments.

Aim/Goals/Intended Outcomes
◆ Students make informed decisions about their learning.
◆ Students make connections to place, culture, and community.
◆ Students have opportunities for transformative educational experiences.

Resources and Constraints
◆ I was helped and inspired by my colleagues in the Miha Lanaau C4ward group.
◆ Constraints include factors such as students’ personal situations, including jobs and family responsibilities.