

Psychological Vulnerability in Disasters

Shelby Borst

Synopsis

This curriculum unit is constructed as an enhancement of the brain and behavior unit of an AP Psychology course. It is meant to serve as authentic and real-world application of material as well as an opportunity for higher level thinking. In this unit, students will be using content knowledge about the brain and applying it to how individuals think and act in disasters. How does disaster-driven trauma affect individuals differently? What makes someone more vulnerable to trauma? Students will engage in WebQuest's, simulations, and research opportunities to discover the factors that play a role in psychological vulnerability and how this affects their brain and body. Students will also be encouraged to be innovative and develop a mental health plan for individuals and communities to follow in the event of a disaster. By creating an academic tri-fold, students will demonstrate their knowledge and practice their presentation skills to fellow peers and staff members throughout the building. The integration of disaster science and psychology will allow for a cross-curricular and authentic learning experience!