

Development of a Case Study Booklet to support teaching of CAPE Environmental Science and Geography

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Situational Analysis

- Pedagogy has been evolving globally:
 - Change from ‘top-down’ delivery to more interactive and hands-on delivery
 - Change in assessment structures
- CXC keeping pace with changes:
 - GCE → CAPE
 - CAPE curricula:
 - emphasizes critical-thinking, analytical and research skills;
 - teachers have flexibility to build and develop teaching plans.

Background to developing a Case Study Booklet

- In 2006, The Cropper Foundation (TCF) met with CAPE Science teachers in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss challenges of curriculum delivery.
- One challenge:
 - CAPE curricula place emphasis on building and using case study material which teachers find difficult to access.

Background to developing a Case Study Booklet

- Merit in CAPE's transformative approach to pedagogy, however:
 - support systems still inadequate for effective curriculum delivery;
 - teachers appear insufficiently trained;
 - materials to support syllabi are scarce.
- What measures need to be taken?

Case Study Booklet

- Project to develop Case Study Booklet:
 - 2007 - 2009
 - TCF and the Ministry of Education
- Booklet comprises:
 1. Seven case studies of areas of Trinidad and Tobago
 2. A guide for developing case studies
 3. Methodologies for fieldwork
 4. Generic learning activities

Guide for developing Case Studies

- Main objective of the case study booklet.
- Guide created based on:
 - experiences of TCF and UWI in developing case studies;
 - inputs from teachers and students.
- Not a recipe guide, to be adapted based on:
 - needs of the user
 - context
 - situation
 - other considerations

Starting out...

- Review syllabus and create a list of desired outcomes and objectives
- Select site for case study
- Decide the 'main idea' for the case study based on selected objectives and potential learning opportunities from the site

Starting Research

- What baseline information is necessary for supporting the main idea?
- Create a list of needs for baseline information
- Review existing data

Further Research

- Insufficient information after review?
 - Consult relevant government agencies or institutions for more information
 - Consult specialist in the particular area
- Research and feedback may reveal additional learning opportunities from the site

Compiling information

- Compile information sources in a bibliography
- Site visit helps to put information into perspective
- Interpret and summarise information as accurately as possible

Packaging information

- Include photographs and diagrams that support baseline information
- Define new and difficult concepts and terms
- Document activities to help bridge the gaps in understanding information

UPDATE

Write up...

Guide for developing Case Studies

- Starting out...

- Main idea:

- steers the direction of the case study;
 - influences type of information included;
 - level of analysis of information;
 - conceptual frameworks are useful for developing main idea.

- Selecting the site:

- Accessibility, safety, availability of information

Guide for developing Case Studies

- Research – getting started
 - Design a research plan
 - What information is necessary for the case study? -
Baseline information
 - Where is the information available?
- Undertaking research
 - Accessing information through the public sector
 - Filling information gaps

Guide for developing Case Studies

- Compiling information
 - Creating a bibliography
 - Analyzing and interpreting information
- Packaging information
 - Defining new and difficult terms and concepts
 - Activities to help bridge gaps in understanding information
 - Photographs, maps and diagrams

Guide for developing Case Studies

- Writing-up
 - Final step to completing case study
 - Pilot test the case study
 - Assess pilot case study for:
 - What worked?
 - What did not work?
 - How could what did not work be improved?
 - Develop feedback loops for revision of case study

Case Study Booklet - Lessons

- Importance of time management
 - Research is time-consuming
 - Planning and early scheduling is key for effective time management

- Developing capacity
 - Realizing and working within capacity
 - Networking among teachers and practitioners to develop capacity

Case Study Booklet - Lessons

- The importance of Collaboration
 - Critical for developing a case study:
 - Collaboration with specialists
 - Collaboration among teachers to share workload
 - Several benefits of collaboration:
 - Sharing of ideas and experiences
 - Avoiding duplication of effort
 - Making best use of limited resources

Case Study Booklet

- Value added
 - Guide is the first of its kind for CAPE in Trinidad and Tobago
 - Complements the CAPE transformative approach to pedagogy
 - Capacity development through ‘learning by doing approach’
 - Resource material for teachers and students

Case Study Booklet – Further work

- TCF will design a programme of workshops, seminars, and consultations on developing case studies.
- The guide will be revised based on the experiences of teachers and practitioners

References

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