

Y-CITYSCI: A Youth-Led Citizen Science Network for Community Environmental Assessment

Introduction to Nature of Science and Citizen Science: Lesson 3

Grade Level: Middle school

Duration: 1 hour

## Introduction to Website and Instagram

### Next Generation Science Standards

Science and Engineering Practice 6: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

Crosscutting Concepts 8: Interdependence of Science, Engineering, and Technology

### Objectives

- 1) Students will know how to write blog posts in a way that effectively communicates their scientific findings.
- 2) Students will demonstrate proper use of public interfaces for the program.

### Materials

- Smartboard/projector
- Computers (1 per student)
- Cell phones (if students have personal phones)
- Instagram app (<https://www.instagram.com/>)
- Program website (<https://ycitysci.wordpress.com/>)

### Activities

**Bellringer:** On a smartboard, introduce the program website and social media accounts made for the program, such as instagram. (5 minutes)

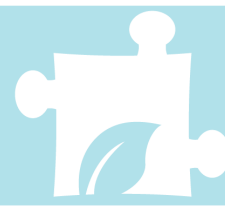
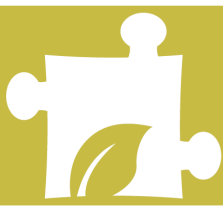
**Lecture:** Discuss the purpose of our public interfaces and the students' general roles and responsibilities in maintaining them.

*These interfaces are to share the students' work and products, inform the public about science and citizen science information, as well as to be a place where students can contribute to photograph and blog content to express their interests.*

Discuss the program's audience and ethics.

*The audience is the community.* (10 minutes)





**Activity 1:** Show students how to manage the website (through WordPress) and Instagram behind the scenes. Explain each of their roles and responsibilities in maintaining these public interfaces for the program. Walk through each item of maintenance and ways students will contribute and have them practice along with you. Students will produce blog posts which will include student written narratives, as well as photographs taken by students. (20 minutes)

**Activity 2:** Give students the following writing prompt: Talk about ways that you use or interact with science each day. Have students write about a half page response as practice for writing a blog post in the future. (15 minutes)

**Discussion:** Have a few students share their blog narratives with the class, or have the students exchange blog writing samples and edit each other's. Collect blog narratives to possibly use on the program website. (10 minutes)

**Resources:**

How To Make a WordPress Website - For Beginners

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AZ8GqW5iak>