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Reading Article 002

UTILITY BILLS

Social-Emotional Learning: **Citizenship**
Reading Strategy: **Asking Questions**
version: v2022-05-05

START HERE

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INSTRUCTIONS:

- Print this PDF file. It has all of the handouts.
- The bottom footer tells you the name of the handout file.
- Grades are estimated using [Hemingway Editor](#).

WHAT'S IN THIS PDF:

- This title page and Links to files (File Table of Contents)
- Handout A - grade 4
- Handout B - grade 7
- Handout C - grade 11
- (optional) Graphic Organizer / Paragraph Response
- About Educircles, License, Copyright, Sources, Changelog

WHAT'S NOT IN THIS PDF:

- Slideshow (see link on page 2)

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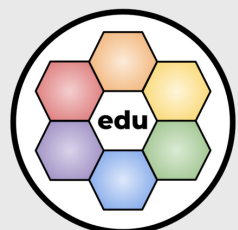
Instructions

What's in this
PDF

Article 002 - START HERE - Page 1 of 5

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Print this PDF

(it has all of the handouts)

File Table of Contents

What do I need	File Name	File type	Get the file
Slideshow	Slideshow	Google Slides	one-click copy
		Microsoft Powerpoint ⁽¹⁾	one-click copy
Article + Character mini-lesson + Discussion Questions	Handout A - Grade 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading time: 1 min 36 sec• Speaking time: 3 min 4 sec• 400 words, 32 sentences, 12 paragraphs	PDF	one-click copy
		Google Docs	one-click copy
		Microsoft Word ⁽¹⁾	one-click copy
	Handout B - Grade 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading time: 1 min 40 sec• Speaking time: 3 min 12 sec• 417 words, 25 sentences, 12 paragraphs	PDF	one-click copy
		Google Docs	one-click copy
		Microsoft Word ⁽¹⁾	one-click copy
	Handout C - Grade 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading time: 1 min 45 sec• Speaking time: 3 min 23 sec• 440 words, 23 sentences, 12 paragraphs	PDF	one-click copy
		Google Docs	one-click copy
		Microsoft Word ⁽¹⁾	one-click copy
Double-Entry Reading Journal (optional)	Graphic Organizer + Paragraph Response	PDF	one-click copy
		Google Docs	one-click copy
		Microsoft Word ⁽¹⁾	one-click copy
Online version	Article 002 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TpT currently only allows one Easel by TpT document to be attached to a product.• All of the handouts are in this single file.• Delete the pages you don't need before assigning your file to students.• You can use the one-click copy link multiple times to create different versions.	Easel by TpT	one-click copy

Google Slides

Powerpoint

Google Docs

Word

Easel by TpT

(1) If the fonts look messed up in Microsoft Word or Powerpoint, please [watch this video](#).



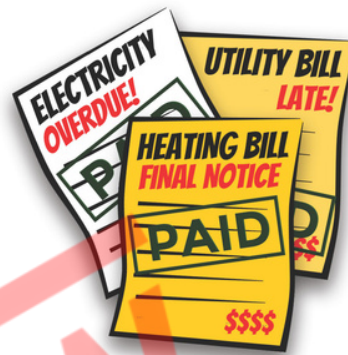
Click the link to edit a file

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

UTILITY BILLS

21st Century Learning Article #002

Read the following article and then answer the critical thinking discussion questions.



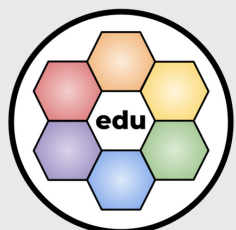
Small business owner pays it forward by paying overdue utility bills for 36 families over the holidays

1. Mike Esmond lives in Gulf Breeze, Florida. He paid the power bills for 36 families in need during the holidays in 2019.
2. Back in 1983, Mike had a hard time paying his own bills. He was behind on his payments at Christmas time, so they turned the heat off. Mike and his three daughters had no heat during the winter!
3. Today, Mike owns Gulf Breeze Pools and Spa near Pensacola. He wanted to give back, so he asked the city what he could do. The city gave him a list of families who were behind on their bills. The amount they owed added up to \$4,600. Mike paid those power bills. The city sent holiday cards to those 36 families instead of overdue bill warnings.
4. A journalist for WEAR posted a photo of the holiday cards on Twitter.
5. "It is our honor and privilege to inform you that your past due utility bill has been paid by Gulf Breeze Pools & Spas. You can rest earlier this holiday season knowing you have one less bill to pay. On behalf of Gulf Breeze Pools & Spas we here at the City of Gulf Breeze would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season."
6. Mike told CNN he wanted to give his neighbors "a happier Christmas and take a little bit of stress out."
7. "I actually lived that back in the 1980s... I experienced the same thing, having trouble paying bills. My gas was shut off, and we had no heating for the whole winter."
8. Angela Cascio lives in the area with four kids. The youngest is only 7 years old and the oldest is 17. Angela was struggling to pay the bills. It was hard to find gifts for Christmas.
9. A reporter for the Pensacola News Journal wrote about how surprised Angela was. "Without [Gulf Breeze Pools] paying that bill, my kids' Christmases would have greatly suffered."
10. "Angels absolutely walk among us, and they are the epitome of kindness and what 'paying it forward' means to me."

Article 002 Utility Bills - Handout A - Page 1 of 3
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Paragraphs
match

Handout
A
page 1



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Simple words
Simple sentence structure

Sophisticated vocabulary
Complex sentence structure

11. "My kids are old enough that they see their mom struggle to make ends meet," Angela said. "They saw me burst into tears when I read the card that Gulf Breeze Pools sent to me. I am forever grateful."
12. Mike is a small business owner. He is also a war veteran. Mike has done other things to help out his community.

Citizenship Mini-Lesson

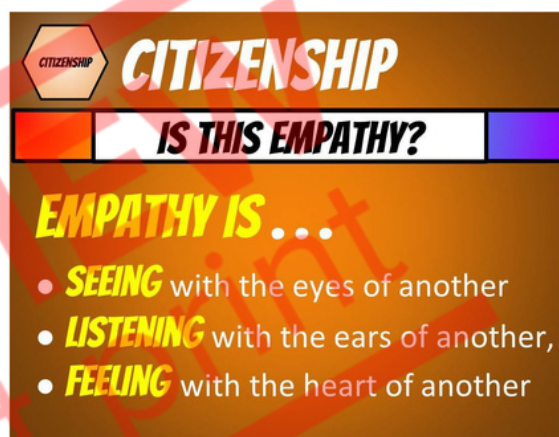
There is a difference between being a citizen, and being an ideal citizen.

(In the same way, is there is a difference between being a student, and an ideal student.)

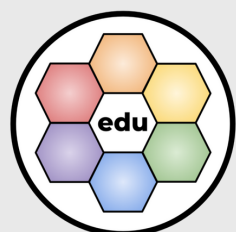
One strategy to help us become better citizens who give back to our communities is to think about empathy and try to be more empathetic.

One definition of empathy is

- Seeing with the eyes of another...
- Listening with the ears of another...
- Feeling with the heart of another...



Handout A page 2



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Questions

Based on the citizenship mini-lesson, how would you answer the following questions:

1. Why was the issue of having no heat in winter especially dear to Mike's heart?

2. Do you think Mike had an idea ahead of time how much promotion this would be for his business? If so could that have been a factor?

3. What do you think the short and long-term impact of Mike doing this can be?

4. Is this an example of good citizenship? Why or why not?

Handout A page 3

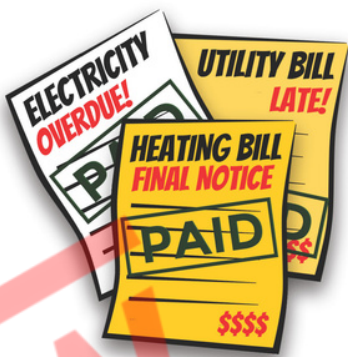


Questions

UTILITY BILLS

21st Century Learning Article #002

Read the following article and then answer the critical thinking discussion questions.



Small business owner pays it forward by paying overdue utility bills for 36 families over the holidays

1. During the holidays in 2019, Mike Esmond of Gulf Breeze, Florida paid the power bills for 36 families in need.
2. In 1983, Esmond was struggling to pay his own bills. He was behind on his utility payments at Christmas time, so the heat was turned off on himself and his three daughters.
3. Today, Esmond owns Gulf Breeze Pools and Spa near Pensacola. He wanted to give back, so he asked the city and was given a list of families with overdue accounts with charges totaling \$4,600. Esmond paid those power bills and the 36 families received holiday cards from the city instead of overdue bill warnings.
4. Danielle Apolinari is a multimedia journalist who wrote an article for WEAR. She also tweeted photos of Esmond as well as of the holiday cards.
5. "It is our honor and privilege to inform you that your past due utility bill has been paid by Gulf Breeze Pools & Spas. You can rest earlier this holiday season knowing you have one less bill to pay. On behalf of Gulf Breeze Pools & Spas we here at the City of Gulf Breeze would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season."
6. Gianluca Mezzofiore wrote about this story for CNN. Esmond told CNN he wanted to give his neighbors "a happier Christmas and take a little bit of stress out."
7. "I actually lived that back in the 1980s... I experienced the same thing, having trouble paying bills. My gas was shut off, and we had no heating for the whole winter."
8. Angela Cascio lives in the area with four kids. The youngest is only 7 years old and the oldest is 17. Cascio was struggling to pay the bills as well as find gifts for Christmas.
9. Annie Blanks from the Pensacola News Journal wrote about Cascio's stunned reaction to having her utility bills paid. "Without [Gulf Breeze Pools] paying that bill, my kids' Christmases would have greatly suffered," Cascio told the News Journal in a Facebook message on Monday.

Paragraphs
match

Handout B page 1



Simple words
Simple sentence structure

Sophisticated vocabulary
Complex sentence structure

10. "Angels absolutely walk among us, and they are the epitome of kindness and what 'paying it forward' means to me."
11. "My kids are old enough that they see their mom struggle to make ends meet," Cascio said. "They saw me burst into tears when I read the card that Gulf Breeze Pools sent to me. I am forever grateful."
12. In addition to being a small business owner, Esmond is a war veteran and has done other things to help out his community.

Citizenship Mini-Lesson

There is a difference between being a citizen, and being an ideal citizen.

(In the same way, is there is a difference between being a student, and an ideal student.)

One strategy to help us become better citizens who give back to our communities is to think about empathy and try to be more empathetic.

One definition of empathy is

- Seeing with the eyes of another...
- Listening with the ears of another...
- Feeling with the heart of another...



Handout B page 2



Mini-Lesson

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Questions

Based on the citizenship mini-lesson, how would you answer the following questions:

1. Why was the issue of having no heat in winter especially dear to Mike's heart?

2. Do you think Mike had an idea ahead of time how much promotion this would be for his business? If so could that have been a factor?

3. What do you think the short and long-term impact of Mike doing this can be?

4. Is this an example of good citizenship? Why or why not?

Handout B page 3



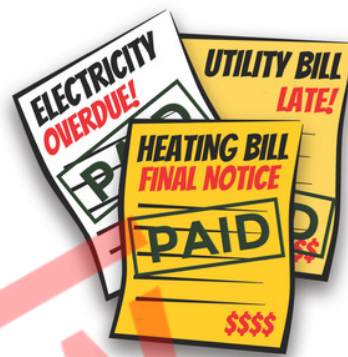
Questions

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

UTILITY BILLS

21st Century Learning Article #002

Read the following article and then answer the critical thinking discussion questions.



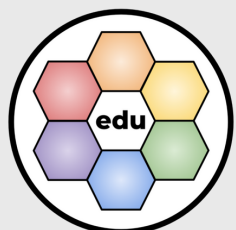
Small business owner pays it forward by paying overdue utility bills for 36 families over the holidays

1. During the 2019 holiday season, Mike Esmond of Gulf Breeze, Florida paid the utility bills for 36 families facing financial hardship.
2. Esmond remembers a period of time decades ago when he himself struggled to find a way to make ends meet. During the winter of 1983, the heat in Esmond's household was eventually disconnected for nonpayment leaving himself and his three daughters to struggle at Christmas.
3. Today, Esmond finds himself in better fortunes as the owner of Gulf Breeze Pools and Spa near Pensacola. Wanting to give back and having the means to do so, Esmond asked the city and received a list of families with accounts in arrears with charges totaling \$4,600. Esmond paid the power bills of the delinquent accounts and the 36 families received holiday cards in the mail from the city instead of overdue bill warnings.
4. Multimedia journalist Danielle Apolinari wrote an article for WEAR and tweeted photos of Esmond and the holiday cards that were distributed.
5. "It is our honor and privilege to inform you that your past due utility bill has been paid by Gulf Breeze Pools & Spas. You can rest easier this holiday season knowing you have one less bill to pay. On behalf of Gulf Breeze Pools & Spas we here at the City of Gulf Breeze would like to wish you and your family a happy holiday season."
6. Gianluca Mezzofiore reported this story for CNN. Esmond told CNN he wanted to his neighbors to experience "a happier Christmas and take a little bit of stress out."
7. "I actually lived that back in the 1980s... I experienced the same thing, having trouble paying bills. My gas was shut off, and we had no heating for the whole winter."
8. Angela Cascio lives in the community with four kids ranging from 7 to 17. Cascio was struggling to pay the bills, let alone finding gifts for Christmas.

Article 002 Utility Bills - Handout C - Page 1 of 3
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Paragraphs
match

Handout C page 1



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Simple words
Simple sentence structure

Sophisticated vocabulary
Complex sentence structure

9. Annie Blanks of the Pensacola News Journal wrote about Cascio's stunned reaction to having her utility bills paid. "Without [Gulf Breeze Pools] paying that bill, my kids' Christmases would have greatly suffered," Cascio told the News Journal in a Facebook message on Monday.
10. "Angels absolutely walk among us, and they are the epitome of kindness and what 'paying it forward' means to me."
11. "My kids are old enough that they see their mom struggle to make ends meet," Cascio said. "They saw me burst into tears when I read the card that Gulf Breeze Pools sent to me. I am forever grateful."
12. In addition to being a small business owner, Esmond is a war veteran and has a history of doing things to help his community.

Citizenship Mini-Lesson

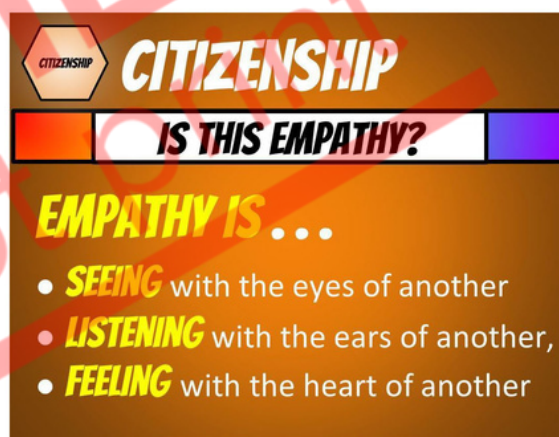
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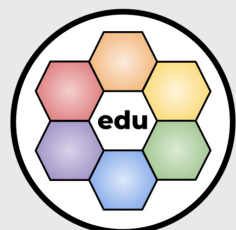
One strategy to help us become better citizens who give back to our communities is to think about empathy and try to be more empathetic.

One definition of empathy is

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- Listening with the ears of another...
- Feeling with the heart of another...



Handout C page 2



Mini-Lesson

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Questions

Based on the citizenship mini-lesson, how would you answer the following questions:

1. Why was the issue of having no heat in winter especially dear to Mike's heart?

2. Do you think Mike had an idea ahead of time how much promotion this would be for his business? If so could that have been a factor?

3. What do you think the short and long-term impact of Mike doing this can be?

4. Is this an example of good citizenship? Why or why not?

Handout C page 3



Questions

DOUBLE ENTRY JOURNAL



PRE-WRITING / BRAINSTORMING: Use the double entry journal below to record ideas and quotes from today’s lesson to help you answer the discussion question:

Article 002. Small business owner pays it forward by paying overdue utility bills for 36 families over the holidays

Discussion question: _____

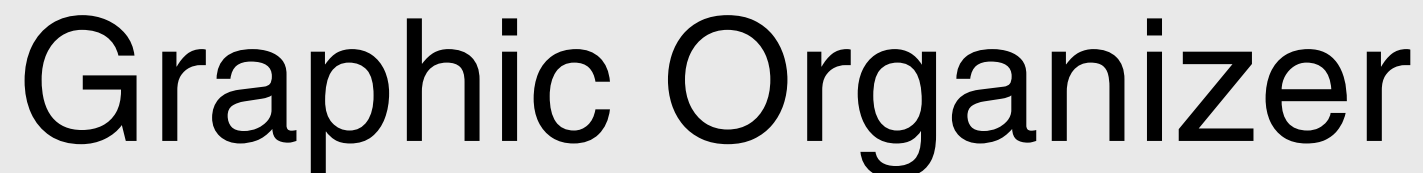
The text	My thinking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write down words, phrases or sentences from the hand outs, video, or other sources of information..• Describe something you see in an image or hear in a video.	<p>Write down your reaction to that idea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a comment / Give an opinion• Ask a question and guess the answer• Agree or disagree and explain why.• Would this actually work?• It would be better if...



PARAGRAPH RESPONSE



page 2



RESPONSE RUBRIC



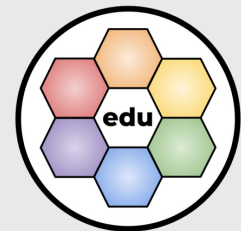
READING	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Ideas Understanding	Complex understanding of the article	Good understanding of the article	Some understanding of the article	Simple understanding of the article

WRITING	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Ideas Point	Complex answer	Good answer	Simple answer	You really didn't answer the discussion question
Evidence	Strong evidence from the text that proves your point. You are concise and precise and use the exact phrase(s) from the text that prove your point.	Good evidence from the text that proves your point	Some evidence from the text but the quote is longer than it needs to be to prove your point. (there are irrelevant details.)	There is not enough evidence from the text or there are too many irrelevant details.
Explanation (thinking)	You very clearly explain how the evidence from the text proves your point.	You explain how the evidence from the text proves your point	You try to explain how your evidence from the text proves your point, but it's confusing or doesn't really prove your point.	You don't explain how your evidence from the text supports your answer (proves your point)



WRITING	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Organization	Your writing is effectively organized in a logical manner that really proves your point	Your writing is organized and guides the reader through your support.	The organization of your paragraph is mechanical.	There isn't a clear sense of direction with your ideas.
	Your ideas flow very well	Your ideas flow well	You have a list of facts or ideas that are not well connected.	Your ideas are loosely or randomly strung together.
	You have an engaging introduction linked to your conclusion.	You have a clear introduction and summarize your point in your conclusion	Your introduction or conclusion may not be well developed or make sense.	Ineffective or missing introduction and conclusion

WRITING	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Conventions (capitalization, grammar usage, punctuation, spelling)	You have strong mastery of standard writing conventions.	You have good control of writing conventions.	There are several errors...	There are many errors...
	The work is correct. There may be a few errors due to experimentation.	The work is generally correct.	... but they don't interfere with the readability	... I have trouble reading your paragraph.



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- I try to help people achieve goals and stand up for themselves and others.
- Oh, I also make resources for teachers.
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If you liked this resource, you would probably like

- [Growth Mindset \(6 Cs\) Social and Emotional Learning bundle](#)
- [Citizenship Unit](#)
- [Reading for Meaning Comprehension Strategies](#)



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version 2021-11-16

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5. **I constantly learn and tweak my work.** If I update this file, I will change the version date at the end of the file name (i.e., v2021-11-08) - See the changelog for details.
6. **I try to respect copyright. If you think I have made an error, please email me at Mike@educircles.org.**

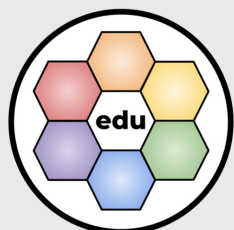
Specific things to know about this product: Article 002 version 2022-05-05

- Slideshow - slide 4: External link to WEAR (CNN affiliate) video used under Fair Use (commentary, education, and student research): <https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2019/12/18/florida-man-pays-past-due-utility-bills-christmas-vpx.wear>

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About, Credit, Changelog

Changelog

I occasionally update and improve these products over time. You know, add a new coat of paint, touch up a few words, fix any mistakes, etc.

Once you purchase this lesson package, you get future updates for free!

- Download the most recent version: [Article 002 - Utility Bills](#)
- How to update (or know if you need to update): [HELP \(Article 002\)](#).

SINGLE PDF FILE update 2022-04-21

1. This product has been relaunched as a TpT digital download PDF product.
<https://links.educircles.org/tpt/article-002>
2. The original product was a TpT Google Drive product and will be archived.
<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Article-002-5121138>
3. If you purchased the original Google Drive product, please email Mike@educircles.org

This product now has a Single PDF to print (with File Table of Contents and all handouts)

- **I added a digital learning version** (Easel by TpT)
- **CHANGES to content**
 - Changed video to point to the source video on the CNN website (instead of YouTube.)
 - Handout names have been changed so they now go in order from youngest to oldest
 - Handout A (Grade 4); Handout B (Grade 7); Handout C (Grade 10)
- Other changes
 - Added SEOT mindset logo to slideshow credit slide; added version number to slideshow
 - Simplified file names using descriptive words (handout, slideshow).

Version 1.5 (May 10, 2020) Getting ready for Distance Learning and Google Classroom

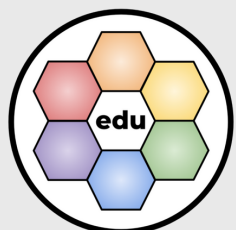
- Updated the read me first PDF
- Added a Thank You PDF
- This product is now available in a bundle with 5 reading comprehension articles (each written at 3 different reading levels) and a comprehension strategy lesson
- NO CHANGES have been made to the slideshow or handouts.

Version 1.0: Initial release of Article 002 (Dec 27, 2019)

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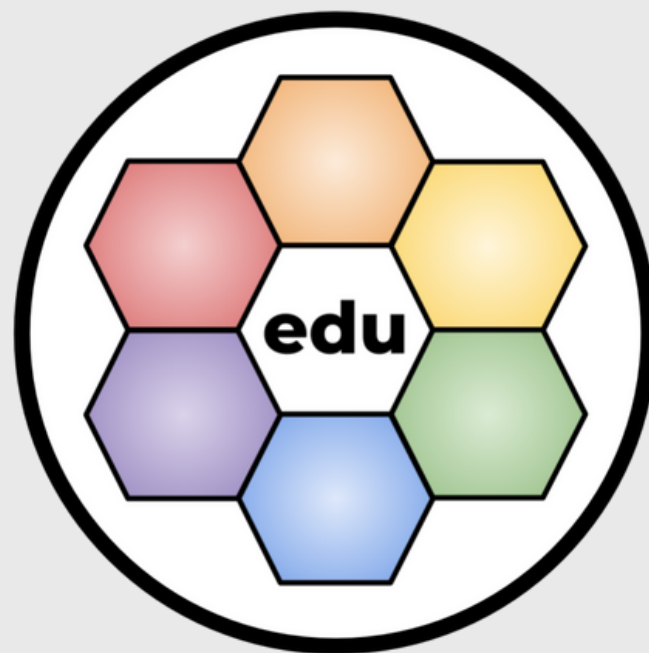
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