#### ADAPTING SOCIAL MEDIA TO CASE STUDY DEVELOPMENT IN A SENCER MODEL COURSE, MYSTERIES OF MIGRATION

Thomas Wood, Julia Nord, Mary Nelson

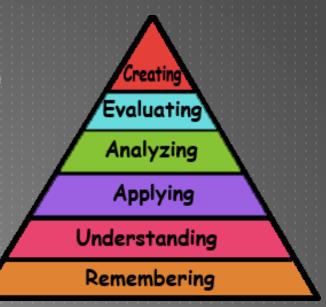
George Mason University, College of Science and New Century College

#### CASE STUDIES ARE VEHICLES FOR EXPRESSION OF LEARNING

- Focus on current events and conditions
- Start early and develop in parallel to course material
- Emphasize discrete problems requiring complex solutions
- Developed throughout the entire semester
- Articulated in the syllabus
- Are selected by students who form groups
  - Advocacy sessions are used in class

#### CASE STUDIES AS PEDAGOGY

- Provides a "Connection to the World"
- Requires application of disciplinary knowledge
  - i.e. population genetics and environmental law
- Requires higher order thinking
- Interdisciplinary in scope, requires integration
- Promotes group function and teamwork
- ▶ Influences the Affective domain
- Enhanced through Social Media applications



# COMPONENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL CASE STUDIES

- Empower students to identify Issues and Topics early in the semester
- ► ISSUES are current, complex and capacious
- ► TOPICS are critical sub-components necessary to understand the ISSUE
- Let's due an example



# SUCCESSFUL COMPONENTS OF CASE STUDIES

- Background research and writing provides a foundation
  - ► A 3000 word research paper throughout the semester
- ► Facilitate scope and breadth of the Issue and Topics
- Stepwise development throughout the semester
- Consultation with experts required

Overcome reservations

**Become curious** 

# USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO COMMUNICATE THEIR ISSUE

- ► KQED Media Toolkit
- Students were able to select Social Media they wanted
- Required to use interviews in some capacity