Global Warming

When his ship first came to Australia,
Cook wrote, the natives
continued fishing, without looking up.
Unable, it seems, to fear what was too large to be comprehended.

Jane Hirshfield, part of a larger poem, "Seventeen Pebbles," in *After.*

Teaching Climate Change

ASLE, June 2015

SueEllen Campbell

Changing Climates @ Colorado State University

(English & CMMAP)

. . . these are the talking point slides
without their images . . .

PLAN

difficulties & Business As Usual

resources: CC@CSU

BAU plus: conversations

beyond BAU

What's so hard?

Just 4% of Americans talk about climate change with anyone they know as often as once a week.

WE (ALL) MAY FEEL

fear, guilt, anxiety, denial,
evasion, defensiveness,
apathy, despair, cynicism . . .

WE (TEACHERS) MAY FEAR

the same brew of emotions in our students
misinformation, controversy, conflict
touchy politics & religion
math, science, our own ignorance

WE TEND TO

focus on individuals & small groups,
not populations, species,
social & political institutions

discuss
rather than lecture

emphasize interpretation
over fact,

personal responses
over worldly effects

concentrate on cultural construction
not material givens

analyze and problematize
rather than solve, restructure, construct, invent

OUR SUBJECTS ARE

how things are said, *not what*

language & texts,
not carbon dioxide, international negotiations, solar panels, carbon pricing

Resources

100 Views of Climate Change

changingclimates.colostate.edu

HANDOUTS

Paper:

website categories, annotated short list of resources

Slides:

Miscellaneous useful graphs etc.

We know how to learn

We know and can use the power of language and stories

We understand how people make & find meaning

We know not to expect rational behavior

We understand the complications of identity

We can talk about scary things

We care about the lived experiences of individuals and groups

We can nurture empathy and imagine other ways of life

OUR CLASSES GIVE US ROOM

Writing & other skills: anything

Literature: everything

Literature & Environment, Environmental Studies: climate change texts

The Real Work

It may be that when we no longer know what to do
we have come to our real work,

and that when we no longer know which way to go
we have come to our real journey.

The mind that is not baffled is not employed.

The impeded stream is the one that sings.

Wendell Berry, from *Standing by Words*.

Beyond BAU

in our classrooms

in our departments

across campus

off campus