

Centre for English Teaching Specialization

Academic Skills for University Success

Example Project Proposal: Two

Stage 1 – Identify a real-world problem to be solved

List 5 communities

- a. Redfern
- b. CET
- c. Young female professionals
- d. Freelance writers/bloggers
- e. University of Sydney

Select 2 Communities

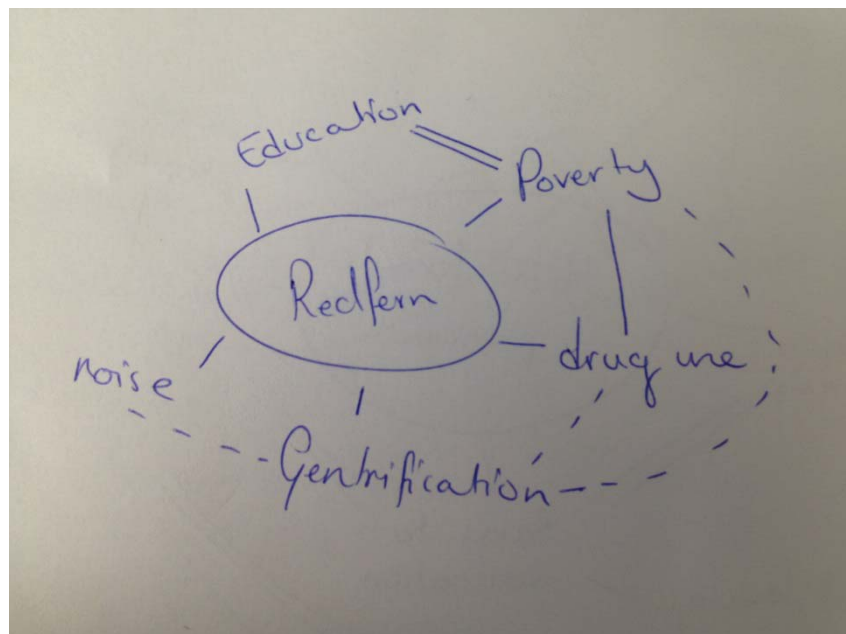
- a. Redfern
- b. Young female professionals

Identify areas of interest

- a. Mentoring/coaching
- b. Developing social networks for community support
- c. Education for women & the impact on communities
- d. Face-to-face interaction
- e. Cross-cultural communication

Identify possible issues: Mind Map

- a. Redfern

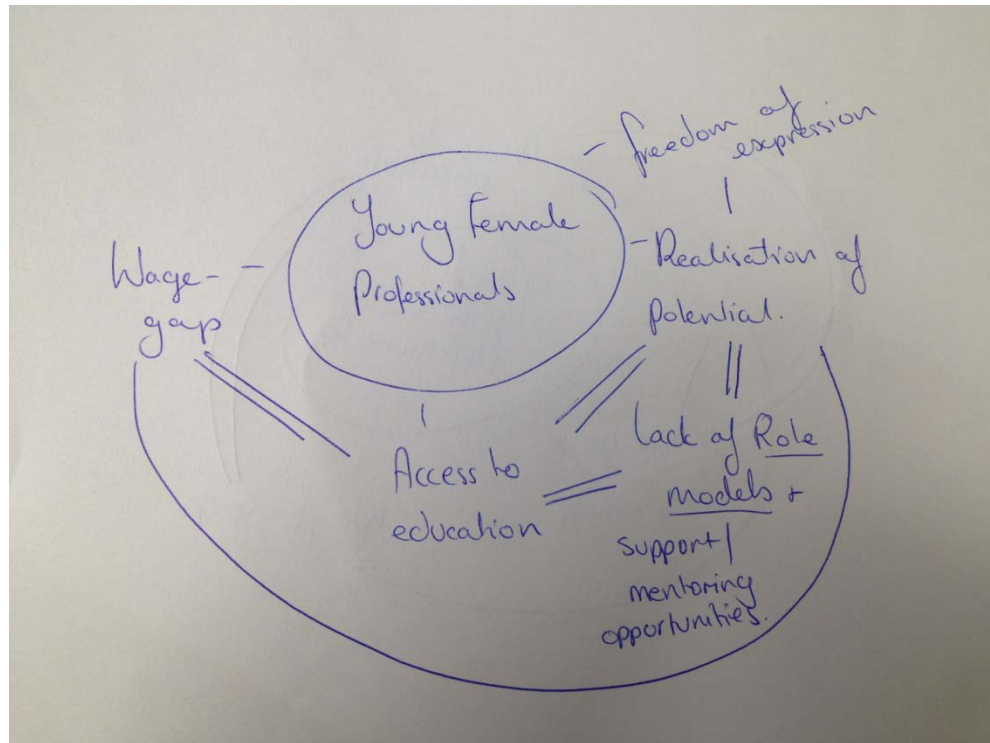


Centre for English Teaching Specialization

Academic Skills for University Success

Example Project Proposal: Two

b. Young female professionals



Issues:

- a. Education (access to) (Redfern & YFP)
 - a. Many young women don't feel confident; may not be aware of possible areas of focus or may feel excluded from current subject areas; important because this impacts future success, potential, and confidence.
- b. Lack of role models etc./Realisation of potential (YFP)
 - a. Without the support & mentoring provided by role models and mentors, young women may feel alone and helpless in the face of challenges; important because this is a crucial part of individual growth, learning and community support.

Bring the ideas together/Choose one to focus on:

- a. These are both in the community of young women; and I can focus this on Redfern because this is an issue common to many young women, particularly those who are first generation university students (or aim to be). Access to education and role models/mentoring overlap because these can help young women to increase their confidence and become aware of their options and have support as they do this.

Centre for English Teaching Specialization

Academic Skills for University Success

Example Project Proposal: Two

Summarise the issue:

- a. Community: Young women in Redfern
- b. Interest or expertise within this community: Mentoring/coaching & Education for women & its impact on communities
- c. Issue/s: There is a lack of educational support and mentoring for young women in Redfern.

Brainstorm causes & effects

Causes

- a. Direct: young women come from disadvantaged backgrounds; role models might tend to distance themselves from the community – thus, especially for 1st generation/1st in family women wanting to attend university there are no role models
- b. Systemic: lack of resources (funding, time); disadvantaged backgrounds -> poverty -> the need/push to get paying jobs early; stereotyping/profiling by community members (race/class coming into play along with gender)
- c. Indirect: young people getting drawn into partying/negative habits; need to speak a particular 'academic language' in order to participate in higher education; perception of the 'exclusive' nature of education

Effects

- d. Individual: Young women don't fully realise their potential (& can't realise it as they don't have access to appropriate resources); low levels of confidence in themselves & Lack of knowledge about options; stereotyping/profiling by community members (race/class coming into play along with gender); unequal access to opportunities
- e. Community/world: negative perceptions by wider community/world; downwards spiral/continuous cycle of poverty & low levels of education

Problem Statement:

- a. **There is a lack of educational support networks and mentoring for young women in the disadvantaged inner-city areas, which results in unequal access to opportunities.**