

Mapping Our Collective Future: How a Collaborative SDG Poster Presentation Redefined My Academic Journey

We often look at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through generic, global metrics, risking a single story that overlooks the specific, lived realities of our continent. My understanding of these complexities transformed when a classmate and I partnered for an innovative visual poster presentation tracking Africa's SDG progress ahead of the 2030 deadline. Rather than writing a traditional, isolating essay, this collaborative project required us to visually map and fiercely debate the systemic, foundational issues stalling development across African countries. The impact of this approach was threefold: it deepened my intellectual consciousness, significantly elevated my academic performance, and fostered a resilient, supportive working relationship with my peer. Through this shared vulnerability and intellectual exchange, I moved past surface-level statistics to truly comprehend the structural barriers to our continent's growth. This experience proved to me that when universities design collaborative, imaginative assessments, they do more than test our memory; they build communities of practice. In this presentation, I reflect on how this innovative assessment model empowered us as young African scholars, demonstrating that true pedagogical innovation must measure its impact by the relationships it builds and the critical consciousness it awakens.