

EXPLORE BUSINESS: Environmental, Social & Governance: Redefining Corporate Governance

Teacher Guide



Wharton
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

GLOBAL YOUTH PROGRAM

Explore Business with Wharton

The Wharton Global Youth Program's *Explore Business* mini-sites are gateways to conversations, readings, and activities that help high school students think about trends transforming the world of business. The *Explore Business* content, meant to engage students whenever and wherever they are prepared to learn, is drawn directly from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, a world leader in business education.

CONTINUING WITH WHARTON'S NEWEST SERIES ON ESG!

Our latest series of mini-sites explores ESG, which stands for **Environmental, Social and Governance**. These materials are drawn from [Wharton's 2021 Tarnopol Lecture](#) addressing critical issues facing the business world.

ESG is the lens through which people are evaluating companies' efforts to do more than just make a financial profit. Why is this important? ESG is a powerful business trend. **Through ESG, companies are exploring and demonstrating their responsibility not just to shareholders, but to a broader group of stakeholders, including the planet, the community and the next generation. As future business leaders and contributors to the workplace and the economy, today's youth must understand how ESG is transforming business, and their role as catalysts for this change.**

OUR SECOND ESG TOPIC IS REDEFINING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Erika James, Dean of the Wharton School, hosted the 2021 discussion "ESG: Redefining Corporate Governance" in November 2021. Corporate governance describes the rules, practices and processes used to direct and manage a company, which is often overseen by a company's board of directors, an elected group of people who supervise the activities and managerial decisions in an organization. How is governance changing? How can corporate boards become more effective in driving change inside and outside corporations? How can they support ESG-directed decisions?

Who We Are

The [Wharton Global Youth Program](#) mobilizes the extensive opportunities of the Wharton academic community to educate, inform and inspire pre-college students to *Explore Business* practices, analyze the world's complex challenges, and take the needed steps to become leaders who will transform the global economy.

ESG: Tackling the Climate Crisis

Our first ESG mini-site, launched in November 2021, provides teaching tools around the "E" or Environmental aspect of ESG with a theme of "Tackling the Climate Crisis."

HOW STUDENTS CAN EXPLORE ESG: REDEFINING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The activities on this mini-site all connect to the “ESG: Redefining Corporate Governance” discussion and provide opportunities for high school students to *Explore Business* in different ways. They include:

- The complete hour-long “ESG: Redefining Corporate Governance” video conversation involving Erika James, Mary-Hunter McDonnell, Luke Taylor and Brian Stafford.
- A link to a published written summary of this discussion.
- Portions of the main video discussion divided into six themed video segments.
- Guided questions for each video segment in PDF format.
- Links to Wharton Global Youth Video Glossary terms and online business journal articles related to each video segment, included in the guided-question PDFs.
- A PDF Choice Board that allows students to choose different ways to further explore concepts introduced in this ESG Corporate Governance discussion.

EXPLORING ESG WITH YOUR STUDENTS

High school educators are encouraged to review all the materials related to “ESG: Redefining Corporate Governance” and incorporate individual or collective activities into your classroom discussions and assignments, in person and online. Start with the introduction at the top of this mini-site homepage, which sets up the *ESG Corporate Governance* discussion and provides context about why it is relevant to your students, then dig in. *Explore Business* is meant to be a complement to your curriculum, built with expertise and insights from the Wharton School community. Wharton is a world leader in business education. You can fit all or parts of our ongoing ESG discussions into your daily, weekly or monthly lessons, however it works best.

For insight on how another high school business educator has used our *Explore Business* mini-sites with his students, visit our [Essential Educator Blog](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

The Dean's third discussion in the ESG series addressed “Humanizing ESG,” which explores the people aspect of ESG and how companies can be a positive force in addressing social challenges. Stay tuned for our next *Explore Business* mini-site on this topic, coming in February 2022!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After engaging with the *Explore Business ESG Corporate Governance* discussion, students should be able to:

- Define corporate governance and how it is changing as a result of ESG.
- Understand how corporate boards are responding to the call to address ESG factors for all stakeholders, not just financial shareholders.
- Articulate the strength and ongoing importance of the ESG call to action as corporate boards focus on integrating it into strategy and culture.
- Begin to see how issues like diversity and compensation play out in the corporate environment and impact decision-making.
- Become familiar with key business and finance concepts through the lens of academic research and business experience.
- Think about ways to apply these new ideas and discussions to their own experiences and lives.

MORE MINI-SITES

Be sure to discover all the great resources in our first series of mini-sites for high school students and educators exploring the [intersection of business and race](#).