

2. Solution Spotlight

Introduction

This activity allows students to take an in-depth look into a solution that helps to alleviate critical issues in the United States. In this exercise each student will be assigned or choose an issue to research. To guide their research, students can use the *Solution Fact Sheet* provided in the appendices. Using the information gathered, students will create posters that advocate for the solution and informs the general population of its benefits. The posters can then be hung in the classroom for a gallery walk. The posters also make great outreach tools when posted in the school or around the local community. Because of the vast number of solutions highlighted in *Dream of a Nation*, this activity works well when done individually.

Procedure

First all solutions from a particular chapter should be collected into a list.

For example a list from Chapter 6: Re-Powering America

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Solar Power | 7. Conscious Building | 13. Adjust Thermostat |
| 2. Wind Power | 8. Conservation Teams | 14. Public Transportation |
| 3. Energy Efficient Cars | 9. Car Sharing | 15. Alternative Transportation |
| 4. Upgrade Inefficient Appliances | 10. Energy Education | 16. Hydrothermal Power |
| 5. Turning Lights Off | 11. Weatherize Windows | 17. Incentives for Energy Conservation |
| 6. Energy Efficient Light Bulbs | 12. Water Saving Plumbing | 18. Urban Design Movement |

Students can then choose or be assigned a solution to research.

Allow the students time to research and fill out the *Solution Fact Sheet* (*Note: students will require use of the internet to complete the fact sheet*). Once completed, students can begin work on their posters that should include basic information made accessible to a general audience, including:

1. Solution Title
2. Solution Description
3. The issue being addressed
4. Facts and Statistics
5. Organizations Involved
6. Where to go for more information

Once posters are completed, students should be given an opportunity to view each poster and reflect on each solution's difficulty, impact, and implementation. This can be done with the grid on the *Solution Fact Sheet* (see for explanation) or on the back of the *Solution Fact Sheet*. Students will use this grid again to complete the next activity, "Solution Hierarchies."

As an extension to this activity, have students craft an essay describing their solution and its benefits. Allow students to form opinions on whether or not they feel the solutions are viable and ask them describe the advantages and disadvantages.

Lesson Timeline

Assign or choose solutions	5 minutes
Research and complete <i>Solution Fact Sheet</i> 	45 minutes
Create Solution Posters	40 minutes