

1. Student Inquiry Part II

Introduction

In Student Inquiry Part I in Lesson Module I, students created a series of questions that the assigned essay left unanswered. A class list of questions was compiled, some questions were answered but others were left without a solution. In this activity, students will begin to explore answers by breaking down the questions into basic components in order to more fully understand each question and its solution.

The purpose of this activity is to challenge students to understand the basic parts of an issue or solution by breaking it down into components that are more easily investigated and answered. The goal in this endeavor is for students to gain a fuller understanding that will provide them with the tools to participate in more complex research.

Procedure

Using the class list of questions created during Student Inquiry Part I, students (or groups) will volunteer or be assigned to breakdown a particular question and attempt to answer its smaller components. The goal is for students to ask themselves, “What do I already know that will lead me in the direction of a solution?” then use that information to reach a more comprehensive answer. These smaller components may bring about more questions that need to be answered.

Question Breakdown Example

This a question generated from *Dream of a Nation* chapter 2, an essay titled “Staying Within Our Limits.”

What can I do personally to lower my global footprint?

For such general question, it will be easier if students break it down into simpler components. For the above question, component questions might look like this:

What is a global footprint?

What is an average global footprint?

How is a global footprint measured?

What parts of my daily routine figure into a global footprint calculation?

What is my personal global footprint?

Are any parts of my daily routine dramatically increasing my global footprint?

Are any parts of my daily routine decreasing my global footprint?

Can I change my routine to lower my personal global footprint?

The goal of the component questions is to discover simple answers that lead to a more comprehensive solution. Students should be able to use general knowledge, the *Dream of a Nation* essays, and other easily accessed resources to answer the component questions. Students will record their questions and answers and use them in the upcoming activities.

Lesson Timeline

Assign questions to be explored	5 minutes
Break question down in component questions	20 minutes
Answer component questions	25 minutes