

Dream of a Nation-
Aiming for the Best in Education

Infographic

1. The statistics presented on these pages indicate that a high level of functional literacy is necessary in order to live above the poverty line. What current educational best practices acknowledge the fundamental role literacy should play in the classroom?
2. What factors contribute to student achievement—and lack thereof—according to these statistics?

Seeing Education in a New Light

1. How is Geoffrey Canada's Harlem Children's Zone program rethinking the traditional operational mode of public education in America?
2. Given that it is so much more financially viable, as well as humane, to invest in education and support for children before they drop out of school, detail what a true, No Child Left Behind program would look like.

Fair School Funding and Equal Opportunities

3. Many schools in American were built during the Great Depression under the New Deal. Given the country's current economic crisis how could an investment of this sort both education as well as the economy?
4. When considering the societal cost of lack of spending in education what is the most prudent course of action the United States can take to increase our society's wealth and enable our citizens to be productive members of society?

Educating for a Sustainable Future

5. Traditionally what subject areas address the environment? In a 21st century curriculum which subjects should address environmental education?
6. How can schools promote experiential education and environmental literacy in their schools simultaneously?

A School and Community Strategy for the 21st Century

7. In what way are the SUN community schools implementing strategies similar to the Harlem Children's Zone program?
8. Watch [this video](#) on school reform and then explain how does Sir Kenneth Robinson's critique of the contemporary education system rounds out the SUN community critique.

Making Education Work for All Students

9. What are the measurable differences and distinctions between “weak” and “strong” teachers?
10. How do teacher evaluation instruments and institutional politics complicate the argument that lack of tenure status will encourage higher level performance in public school teachers?

Post-Reading Questions

11. Given the public debate currently surrounding all areas of public education name the current stakeholders that public school teachers are accountable to. What difficulties can potentially arise with so many perspectives, interests and potential solutions?
12. Teachers are increasingly being asked to work with others—through Professional Learning Communities, Interdisciplinary Units, and the community as in SUN schools. What preparation do Teacher Education Programs need to address in order for new teachers to be prepared for these new demands?