

What does the future hold?

Grade Level: 5-12

Time: 45 minutes

Objectives:

- Consolidate issues according to their causes and effects
- Begin to identify the stakeholders involved with the issues and recognize various interests.

Curricular Connections: Civics, Language Arts

Materials: 3x5 index cards

Procedure:

- 1) As a class develop a list of community issues and write them on the board. (You should end up with at least as many issues as students).
- 2) Give each student a 3x5 index card and assign an issue from the brainstormed community issues list. On that card, students will answer the questions listed below. The educator then asks students to group with other students who have similarities in issues. The first question may be: find another issue that is caused by businesses. Find another issue that affects kids. Find another issue that may be a big problem in 10 years if not addressed. Students walk around the room, comparing answers and grouping themselves according to the questions asked.

Questions for 3x5 cards:

- i. Who does this issue affect?
 - ii. Who caused this issue: individuals, businesses, or government agencies?
 - iii. If this issue is not addressed, will it worsen in:
 1. 1 year
 2. 10 years
 3. 100 years
- 3) Divide class into small groups and have them discuss the similarities and differences between their issues and answers to the questions. They should see not only how the issues are interrelated but how the effects of poor practices affect a whole community.

Reflection:

- Group discussion to consolidate issues.
- Create a timeline showing how this issue developed and what may happen as a result of community apathy and young people's involvement.

Assessment:

1. Evaluate level of participation in discussions

Source: Adapted from Patty O'Meagher, Earth Force Toolbox, Segment 2