

REVISION STILL IN PROCESS

Big Idea: Making an informed decision as a United States Citizen

Question: Are your tax dollars being spent wisely? What do we do about it now?

You just got your paycheck for the month. (Look at your paper paycheck, specifically at the amount of taxes taken out. Discuss what tax money goes to.) As a concerned citizen, you want to evaluate and compare the United States facts and statistics to other countries and states. Additionally, based on the facts you find, you want to identify and eliminate stereotypes that exist in America's society. In order to prevent crime and decrease the incarceration population, you need to be an informed citizen.

Group Topics:

1. How does the United States compare to other countries in the following areas: incarceration, justice system, and crime rate?
2. How does the United States compare to other states in the US in the following areas: incarceration, justice system, and crime rate?
3. How does the United States compare to other countries in the following areas: incarceration, justice system, and crime rate?
4. Paint a picture for your high school audience as to what the United State's demographics look like. Demographics should include be are not limited to: race/ethnicity, gender, age, etc.
5. Identify stereotypes that Americans have about crime and incarceration.
6. How does the media (newspapers, television, commercials, advertisements, radio, etc) influence the stereotypes in the United States. Provide specific examples and data.
7. What programs does the United States and Iowa have to prevent crime from happening, and what programs do they have for incarcerated individuals?
8. Identify where our tax dollars are being spent at the state and federal level.

Steps in process:

1. What is the United States doing that is working for crime and incarceration...what do we need to improve? Plus, Minus and Interesting Chart (PMI chart) Compile Statistics, Charts, Bar graphs, Pie Charts, data to analyze, share in google docs? (4 days)
2. Report Findings to small groups (1 day)
3. Discuss, answer questions covering each topic, and debate issues (1 day)
4. Assessment: Write a letter (3 days)
 - Day 1: brainstorm ideas
 - Day 2: write 1st draft
 - Day 3: revise, final draft

Assessment:

Write a letter to government identifying the problems and a solution, then send it
Write letter to president identifying the problems and a solution, then send it

Questions for small group discussion.....NEEDS ATTENTION AND WORK STILL
Sociology

Name: _____

Discuss the following questions in your groups. Write your answers to the following questions after your discussion.

Each group gets specific questions related to their topic. Groups split up and jigsaw information.

1. What accounts for the United States' high crime rates when compared to other countries? What are we doing that is working or not working? Support your reasoning.
2. Do you think it is fair that tax payers are spending billions of dollars a year to keep prison's running? Why or why not?
3. Do you think legalizing drugs would benefit society? Defend your reasoning.
4. What level of crime should offenders be incarcerated for?
5. Some people would argue that our justice system is failing. Do we need to change our justice system? Why or why not?
6. If you had to provide an alternative solution to incarceration, what would it be and why?