

Understanding Causes of Global Conflict: Peer Interviews
High School – Contemporary World History; American Civics/Government

Elaborated Lesson Focus:

The purpose of this lesson is for students to consider their own personal opinions about the situations and behaviors that cause conflict in society. Students learn to communicate their experiences by developing a common vocabulary, interviewing in pairs, and sharing their feelings

4. Ask the class for examples of a conflict, and have them relate that conflict to one of the terms on the board. Elicit examples of conflict that exist personally (between friends, family members), locally (gang rivalries, school rivalries, local ethnic conflicts), and globally (the Vietnam War, Khmer Rouge, Darfur, war in Iraq, etc.).
5. Explain that during the next activity, they will be discussing personal opinions and feelings responses and perspectives.

Note: It may be helpful to establish ground rules for discussion before this activity, to ensure productive and respectful dialogue. See *Activity: Setting Ground Rules for Conversations in Class*.

6. Divide the class into pairs. Give each student a copy of *Student Handout: Interviewing Peers*.
7. Allow 10 minutes for one student to interview his or her partner using the questions on Page _____ onses in the space provided.
8. After 10 minutes, instruct students to _____ The

10. For homework, students should freewrite in response to the following prompt in their journals or class notebooks:

“Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news.”

—Anne Frank

Extension Activities and Ideas for Further Learning

- Create a class edition of shared in their pair work. Assign students different columns: an in-depth profile of someone who represents generosity; an overview of a conflict and suggestions for resolution; a featured interview with a member of the community and suggestions for solving the problem; cover and report about a school event that epitomizes diversity; etc. Format the edition like a real paper. Copy onto newsprint. Distribute copies of the newspaper in the school lobby to promote conflict resolution in the school community.

- Assign students a research project on a local or global conflict with the following assignment:

Choose one specific local or global conflict. Describe the conflict objectively and

objectively (and suggest solutions) to the conflict. Incorporate existing solutions and organizations who are working on solving the conflict (such as the U.S. Supreme Court, the United Nations, etc.) as well as suggesting new approaches in your solution. Conclude your research project with an additional resource page that lists at least 5 nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations that work to solve the specific conflict, or one of the issues underlying the specific conflict. The resource page should be formatted similar to a bibliography page, with each entry including the name of the non-profit or NGO, its address, phone number, and policy efforts.

- Assign students a narrative expository essay using the following prompt:

Every one of us has had a personal experience with peer pressure, bias, oppression, ethnocentricity, greed, miscommunication, fear, or need. Describe a personal experience

and how it affected you. Then identify a domestic or global conflict that also relates to the same issue. Explain how the conflict relates to that specific issue, and then compare

Questions for Second Interviewee

1. Tell about a time when you treated someone else with disrespect, and explain what caused you to act that way. How did this behavior make you feel?

2. Tell about a time when you had a personal experience with censorship, or, in contrast, when your freedom of speech was upheld in the face of resistance. How did you feel when you thought your right to express yourself might be curtailed?

3. Tell about a time when you have, or someone you know has, been in need. How do you think this experience impacts a person? A family? A community?

4. Give an example from your school, neighborhood, or from a current event when lack of cooperation and/or rivalry lead to a conflict. How did this affect you? Explain.
