

# Social Issues

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This activity is appropriate for high school students who have read a short story, play or novel whose main theme is a social issue that affects youths and families.

## Task 1

Divide the students into groups of 3-4 and have them brainstorm what issues (other than the main theme of the literary work) affect them and their families. They must list at least three, but listing more can earn more points.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Task 2

Have students look through the newspapers to find articles about these issues. Copy the headlines and dates of articles, and tell what issue each article addresses. Students need to locate at LEAST six articles, more for more points. Note: If they do not find articles on the issues listed, have the group go back and brainstorm more issues.

| Date | Headline | Issue |
|------|----------|-------|
| 1.   |          |       |
| 2.   |          |       |

## Task 3

- A. Each person in the group should read one of the articles listed.
- B. Each student should complete a Summary Sheet of the facts of the article (who, what, where, when, why, how). Each student then writes a summary of the article.
- C. Students exchange with a group member. Students then read the summary they received. Students will then write a response to the summary. They may need to ask questions about the article before writing a response to the summary.

## Task 4

Discuss as a group:

- A. What can or should be done to address issues affecting youth/families in our society?
- B. What would you like to know more about?
- C. Write a summary of your discussion.

## Task 5

Read the newspapers to find an article that has a positive or hopeful message. Write the headline and date and write a summary of the article.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      Headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_