The Perfect World: A place where everyone would want to live

A WebQuest for 11th Grade History

Introduction

Do you have problems with society? Do you believe that our world can be improved? Well, here is you chance to create the perfect world, your Utopia. The idea of a utopia world is a dream that has existed in almost every society, but has not been successfully created on a large scale. There have been numerous ideas and examples of what a Utopian society should be, envisioned by influential people. Now, you must look back on their mistakes and create the perfect society at every level, a world that every human being would want to live in.

Task

Each member of the group will research a different aspect of society necessary for creating a utopia, as well as the mistakes and successes of past utopias. The group will then come together with all of their information and collaborate to determine which aspects of society would create the most successful utopia. Once the group reaches a consensus, each member of the group will write a piece relating to their job description. The group will then create a packet of all of their information as well as a short commercial explaining their Utopia and why citizens should join it.

Process

To create your Utopia, your group of four people decide that it is most effective to each play a different role. Your group will have a Historian, Politician, Leader, and Educator. Each of these jobs requires a research component and a writing component.

1. Each group member choose a job: Historian, Politician, Leader, or Educator

2. Your group will split up and each job will first perform their research component. You should each take careful notes since you will need to explain your findings to your group members.

1. Historian: research at least one Utopia that existed in the past and failed, and at least one Utopia that still exists today

1. some Utopias you may want to start with are Brook Farm, Fruitlands, or The Shakers

2. Politician: research the format of the declaration of independence as well as 3 current issues in society that you wish to fix

3. Leader: research the different types of government

4. Educator: research different types of schooling

1. It is helpful to research what education systems past Utopias used

3. Once you have compiled your research, all of the group members should meet up and present their research. This sharing process should be conducted as a discussion so that your group can decide what your Utopia will be like. Your group will need to combine all of your research to develop a general idea of what your Utopia will be.

4. After your group discussion, your group will choose a name for your society as well as a motto for your Utopia. These should be creative and explain your Utopia's overall ideals.

5. Once these are established, your group members will split up and begin composing their writing component.

1. Historian: Summarize and explain 2 successful Utopian characteristics that your Utopia has, as well as 2 unsuccessful characteristics that your Utopia has addressed and fixed. This should be written in at least two paragraphs.

2. Politician: Create your Utopia's own Declaration of Independence. You must create a Preamble and Statement of Beliefs, including the goals and values of your Utopia similar to America's Declaration of Independence. You will then create a List of Complaints in which you discuss the three issues in society that you researched.

3. Leader: You will create a list of 8-10 rules for all members of your society to follow. Give a one to two sentence rationale for implementing each rule. You will then write a paragraph explaining to type of government you will implement in your Utopia and how your Utopia will make decisions.

4. Educator: You will write a multi-paragraph paper on the type of education system you will use in your Utopia. Be sure to explain why that system is appropriate for your Utopia and what role children play in your society. (Ex: Are they needed for labor? Are they meant to focus on furthering their education?

6. Once every member of the group has drafted, edited, and completed their specific writing component, all pieces of paper must be stapled together, in a logical order, with a cover page including each group members name and job title as well as the name of your Utopia.

7. Now that the writing component is finished, your group must make a commercial that is 2-3 minutes in length explaining to the class (your potential citizens) why they should join your Utopia. Be sure to be both persuasive and informative and stay within the time constraints.

8. On the day of presentations, bring both your packet of written work and a hard version of your video (whether it is a VHS, a DVD, or on a camcorder). Be prepared to answer questions from your classmates at the end of your video.

Evaluation

Your grade for this project will include both individual and group grades. Each member will be graded individually on their paper component. This grade will have two numbers, one for mechanics and one for content. Added to these scores will be a group grade regarding the commercial. These three numbers will combine to create your final grade and percentage.

Conclusion

After, completing this project, you should have a better understanding of how society function on every level. Think about what your group decided were the best aspect of society necessary for creating your utopia, which ones exist the world that you live in which do not. Would you consider the society that you live in to be a utopia or not? Are there certain aspect that you believe truly emphasize the ideas of a utopian society? What are some aspect that do not fit into the ideas of a utopian society. Overall, it is extremely important to understand the world around you so that you can have the most success and enjoy the best live provided by that society. Try not to forget the lessons that you learned from this project, remember that utopias exist mostly in the mind, but the ideas surrounding them can improve your live and the lives of the people around you.

Teacher Page:

Introduction

This lesson is to have students research Utopias from the past and present. They will learn what worked and what did not for each society. They will also have to figure out what their societies will definately need to be successful.

The task the students have is to research and create a Utopia. The groups will consist of 4 people in them. Each student in the group will have a role in the society and will need to research that specific area to learn what can be used in their utopia. The group will then join together and discuss their findings and begin putting together their perfect utopia. Once they have decided on all the areas of the utopia needed, they will create an infomercial that will persuade others to come and join their utopia.

The students should have one week of out of class time to gather all the information for their role and then one in class week to meet with their group, figure out their utopia, and then create the infomercial.

Learner

This activity is aimed for the high school grade level, specifically the 10th grade. It combines history with language arts and includes a little bit of psychology. This webquest will be good for an average class. If children have learning disabilities, more help may be needed.

The learners should have an understanding of what utopias are and what they will need in the one that is being created in this assignment. The students should learn more as they do their own research and the group together should decide what a perfect utopia would consist of.

Standards

NETS-S.1.B

> Students are proficient in the use of technology.

NETS-S.2

STANDARD: Social, ethical, and human issues

NETS-S.2.C

> Students develop positive attitudes toward technology uses that support lifelong learning, collaboration, personal pursuits, and productivity.

NETS-S.3.A

> Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.

Resources

The materials that will be needed for this webquest will include

Reference material from the school library

Video cameras

Computers must be available for students

\* Internet should be available

Half of this project should be done independently and the other half should be done within the group. You, as the teacher, will be there for questions and support. Students should be able to do this on their own but you can help and guide students if they need assistance.

Evaluation

You will know the lesson was successful when you see the infomercials and the research done. If they have goo aspects to their utopia and have the necessities thn they did well.

The students will be evaluated on two parts. The first part is their indepentent work on their "role." You should be looking to see if they did the research and understand that topic and what is needed in a utopia. The second grade will be for the informercial. This grade depends on how well they came together and decided on what things should be included in their utopia.

The rubric is straight forward and explains exactly what you should be grading on.