

ANTICIPATORY SET:

What are some of the problems faced in Africa that you have learned about in class?

- hunger (limited resources)
- disease
- history of violence/e.g. genocide in Darfur
- instability in terms of government
- long history of tribal affiliations

With those problems in mind, we are going to break into 3 small groups and debate some issues. One person from each group will present each side of each issue after brainstorming with the group. Use evidence to support your answers!

ISSUE NO 1: (connect to modern issues in Haiti)

The United States should/should not give more financial relief to “developing” nations in Africa.

A few issues to consider during discussion and before the debate:

1. what type of relief?
2. how would aid affect the country/tribe/place we give it to and their form of government?
3. How would aid affect the balance of power around the world?
4. How would aid affect the United States government and its people?
5. What does the U.S. expect to get in return/what are its motivations in aiding other countries?

ISSUE NO. 2:

The United States or United Nations should/should not get involved in stopping genocide in Darfur.

A few issues to consider during discussion and before the debate:

1. Is genocide really happening - what is the definition of genocide?
2. What forms of help/assistance/power could the U.S. give or exert? How about the international community (e.g. trade restrictions, economic sanctions, tribunals for war crimes?)
3. What does it mean to be the leaders of the free world/police other nations? Should we let them work out their own conflicts or not? What are the consequences of getting involved or staying out of others' conflicts?

ISSUE NO. 3:

Certain countries and regions in Africa will someday/will never be able to have democracy.

A few issues to consider during discussion and before the debate:

1. What are the prerequisites for democratic government, meaning what is needed in the economic and social climate of a place to be able to create and sustain participatory government?
2. How does the history of Africa contribute to its ability or inability to sustain Democracy?
3. Are there other forms of government besides Democracy that would better suit the situation in Africa? Is Democracy the only "good" or "stable" form of government?
4. What attributes do African nations/tribes have that are positive that are missing from the U.S. form of government?
5. Can you "export" a form of government? How do nations learn from each other in our technological world?

Debriefing after presentations:

_____ After presenting the debate, talk about how (1) thinking about both sides beforehand, (2) using evidence to support your answer helped to strengthen your arguments.

What common themes arose?