



#whatsyourstory?

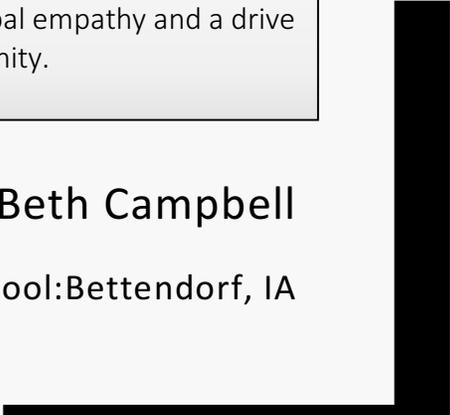
WHAT DEFINES LIFE AS RICH AND MEANINGFUL?

Purpose:

Our goal for this project is to help students develop a global perspective of how people live differently around the world yet discover that there are aspects of the human experience that bond us together across borders and geographic boundaries. Through this global perspective, students will in turn develop global empathy and a drive to understand the world beyond their community.

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Marlise Bosman is an experienced educator who has traveled the world. Currently she is a sixth-grade teacher at Hopewell Elementary School in Bettendorf, IA. She is always seeking opportunities to make connections, open minds and create dialogue with her students.

Beth Campbell is an Innovation Technology Coach who loves to imagine ‘what if’? When Marlise approached Beth about how to help her students grapple with the question: “What Defines Life as Rich and Meaningful” - their collaborative journey was launched.

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Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, or are interested in joining us to help share *#what'syourstory?*

Please Join Us!

1. Please send us a short email letting us know the name of your school and its location. This will allow us to recognize Flipgrid videos as they appear on the grid and ensure their authenticity.
2. Lesson Plan for teacher:

RESOURCES:

- Gapminder Dollar Street:
<https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/matrix?thing=Families&countries=World®ions=World&zoom=4&row=1&lowIncome=26&highIncome=15000&lang=en>
- Gapminder Data Tools:
https://www.gapminder.org/tools/#_data_/lastModified:1522234209122;&chart-type=bubbles
The videos listed below the data tools can be helpful to help students understand the power of data.
- Data Use Tutorial:
https://www.gapminder.org/tools/#_data_/lastModified:1522234356268;&chart-type=bubbles

Week #1:

To gain an understanding of student thinking, ask students either in writing or in a Flipgrid video response to reflect on the following questions:

- How can I compare myself to other students and families around the world?
- What really matters to human beings? What do human beings need in order to survive in this day and age?

Suggestion: Save the student responses and have students watch or read their responses at the end of the learning. Students can then reflect and respond again on the same question.

Discuss the question: *What defines life as rich and meaningful?*

This question needs time to ensure that students can begin to wrestle and grapple with various ideas. Their initial thoughts may change over time. Help students see that each of us have a story to tell and by sharing our individual experiences, we deepen the human experience for all of us.

Week #2:

Using the website Gapminder: [Dollar Street](#), have students read and listen to various family stories around the world. [Dollar Street](#) shares lifestyles and habits for 264 families in 50 countries around the world and helps break down stereotypes and assumptions about people and locations. Again, discussions about what we have learned and how our thinking is changing is imperative.

Please encourage students to look for patterns and main ideas as they evaluate [Dollar Street](#).

- What are trends and issues that impact all people, regardless of their location? What do you hear them saying? What brings them happiness and joy? What do they desire for their future?
- Can students identify common expectations that cross cultures and continents? Why would this happen? What does matter? Why is this question important in our world today?

Week #3:

Using the data tools in the website Gapminder.org, engage students in world trend data. This website contains world data dating back to the 1850s. Categories range from health data, population growth, income, technology. Questions students developed based on the information in Dollar Street might be explored via the Gapminder Data tools.

Students could reflect via Flipgrid on their learning and trace how their thinking is changing each day.

Example of guiding questions:

- How does wealth impact a country?
- How has the distribution of population of the world changed over time?
- How does wealth impact the health of a country?

NOTE: Learning for students is most authentic when driven by questions that arise from student research.

Week #4:

Show students the Flipgrid project wall. It includes 7 topic prompts.

1. What are your hopes and dreams for your future?
2. Who is a person you look up to the most in your life?
3. What achievements are you most proud of?

4. Describe the ways in which you contribute to your household or family?
5. What value, item, feeling, belief or idea is at the center of your world?
6. Can you tell about a family tradition that is important to you and explain why it makes your life rich and meaningful?
7. What worries do you have in your own life?

The purpose is to gather the stories of students around the world to help further develop empathy and understanding as we hear young people share their thoughts and ideas, under the main topic of:

'What Defines Life as Rich and Meaningful?

Discussion Suggestion:

- What patterns do you notice among the responses? What does this tell us about the culture in this country?
- How do you connect to the stories in the responses? How are you similar and different? What does this tell us about the connections between the cultures?

Have students begin to listen to student prompts to see how they are answering the question. Encourage them to look for specific ways in which students are telling their own story and personalizing the answer to create awareness and empathy. *How does hearing a real person answer the prompt help generate understanding? What happens when we share stories?*

Week #5:

Encourage students to identify one question prompt that resonates for them individually. Begin to craft responses that are specific and help tell a story. Remind students not to share personal information that might make them (or their family uncomfortable). Once they have written their story, practice how they want to share their story and then record the response on Flipgrid.

CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS:

- Camera is steady
- No outside distractions are present in the video
- Volume is clear
- Prompt for recording includes: Hi, my name is _____ and I'm from _____
- Ending for recording includes: *#whatsyourstory*
- Ensure that the rate at which you are speaking is just right

Our Purpose:

- How do we fit into the world?
- What defines us as human beings?
- What defines life as rich and meaningful?
- Who are we as people?
- What were we put on this earth to do?
- How do I compare myself to other students and families around the world?

Response Criteria: (each video response is limited to 90 seconds)

Starting Response Frame:

- This is _____ from (state your country)
- Introduce topic

Name Tag:

- First Box: First name
- Second Box- your country

Response guidelines:

- Add artifact or whiteboard phrase/word (visual interest)
- No background noise
- Strong voice quality
- Pacing
- Conversational
- Emotion
- Include stories
- Make it REAL and authentic
- Why does this matter?

Selfie Expectations:

- No add-ons
- Professional look

Conclusion:

- #whatsyourstory
- Everyone has a story... share yours!

Student instructions:

1. After participating in classroom discussions, continue to add to your notes and ideas about *'What defines life as rich and meaningful'*?
2. Is your thinking changing? What ideas are coming to mind that you may not have considered before?
3. Look at the Flipgrid wall. Your teacher will provide you a link. Which topics interest you?
4. Listen to multiple videos from students who have posted around the world so far. Do you hear similar themes and ideas? Which topics interest you the most? Which topics spark an idea of a story YOU would like to share?
5. Videos are limited to 90 seconds.
6. Begin to compose your response for the topics you are most interested in sharing.
7. Be real. Be specific. Help us understand where you live and aspects of your daily life. Tell us a story! Be YOU!
8. Protect your private information. Remember your story will be shared on the internet.
9. Record your response on the Flipgrid topic wall that connects with your story. Be sure to use appropriate pacing, volume and articulation so that others will be able to understand your message. Keep the camera still and focused on you while speaking. If you want to include an item that helps convey your story, you may do so.
10. On the final step, include your FIRST NAME ONLY. In the box that asks for Last NAME, please include the country where you live.
11. SUBMIT your video.

All videos will be approved by the grid moderators. If they feel a particular response does not meet the approval criteria, it will not appear on the wall.