

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Pick a social/political issue that you care about and learn about it. Identify, link to and evaluate three sites that address your issue. Consider the following questions:

1. What arguments are being made?
2. What evidence is being provided?
3. Who is making the argument? What are the perspectives and assumptions that are present in this article?
4. What perspective is missing?
5. How do power and privilege affect this issue?
6. Are there any possible policy solutions? Which solutions are not being considered?
7. What is your position? How does the evidence support your position? How do you think your position is grounded in your personal and social identity- relationship to power and privilege?
8. What questions are you left with? \*

2. Add a comment to the social analysis of three students and label them accordingly:

- 1) discuss to comprehend;
- 2) discuss to critique;
- 3) discuss to construct knowledge; and
- 4) discuss to share.

Comments should:

1. Build on a point they make, offer evidence in support or in opposition to a position they take or claim they make, post a link to a resource that can illuminate or extend the post. If the blogger whose post you comment on posts a reply, see if you can extend the dialogue by asking questions and inviting others to participate.
2. Try and solicit comments in a post on your blog. Ask for opinion, examples, evidence. End your post in a question that invites comments.
3. For an advanced exercise, use a blog post or series of blog posts and invited comments to organize collective action- a meeting, a petition, a boycott, letters to the editor etc.

\* Adapted from Rheingold, 2005