

InfoGraphics

Overview: Infographics (or other interesting images) can be a very powerful medium to communicate complex ideas and messages about systems. Using the Compass, students in every senior school homeroom engage with the chosen topic (in this case, food).

Grade: 6 – 12, Homeroom (easily adaptable to any grade/subject)

Estimated duration: 20 minutes

Topic: Food

Purpose: To integrate sustainability mindfulness into the pastoral care program through use of the Compass model and high impact infographics.

Background required: None

Resources/ Materials: Infographics or interesting images (pictures, words, or a combination)

Outline:

1. As students view the infographic, they think about how the issues it raises are influenced by, or exert an influence on, each of the Compass points. Encourage them to make at least one connection to each Compass point.
2. Unpack the infographic as a class. Possible discussion prompts:
 - “What are some connections between this issue and each of the four Compass points?”
 - “How does (the issue raised in the infographic) affect our Nature/Society/Well-being/Economy?”
 - “How does Nature/Society/Well-being/Economy affect this issue?”
 - “What kinds of people are affected by this issue?”
 - “In what ways does this issue affect you or people you know?”
 - “How are the subjects that you study in school are related to this issue?”
3. If time allows, have students share their thoughts and opinions in “The Doughnut” conversation activity.
4. And/Or: If time allows, hold a silent discussion on a large butcher paper or whiteboard. Write one provocative, central question relating to the infographic in the middle of the paper/board. In silence (or with background music) each student writes a brief response. After reading each other’s responses, each student counter-responds to two or more comments (a respectful comment or asking a follow up question). Students may then evaluate their experience and/or continue the conversation aloud.
5. Allow an opportunity to reflect, perhaps considering what knowledge they have gained, any change in their opinion on the subject, their reaction to the opinions of others, further connections to the Compass model or their reaction to the activities.

Tips and Ideas:

When choosing infographics, consider whether they will be accessible yet engaging for the age group, given the time allotted and their reading speed.

Some graphics will naturally lend themselves to some aspects of the Compass model more than others.

Encourage the students to take chances and make creative connections.

Inspire conversations around sustainability by exposing the entire student body to the same topic, for example, a school-wide focus on Food in term 1, Water in term 2, Biodiversity in term 3, etc.



What the compass does:

- Provides structure
- Helps students attack a new topic quickly
- Encourages deeper thinking