



Grade 11 AP Capstone Seminar: Social Justice

(Submitted by Alicja Surzyn, 2018, while serving as High School Teacher at The American School Foundation of Guadalajara, Mexico)

Tool(s) used:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Compass • Systems Mapping
Purpose of using tool:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Generating Questions <p>Overview: I used the Compass tools to help students see the complexity of a problem through multiple perspectives and to find a place (a leverage point) where to start their research.</p>
Context of lesson/case study:	AP Capstone Seminar
Participants (# and description):	Grade 11 students/Juniors
Topic, Theme, or Key Understanding of unit/project:	Social Justice
Length of unit/project:	One month
Resources/materials & setting required:	Groups, chart paper, markers Social Justice Presentation
Lesson Plan/Description of the Project:	
<p>With the Compass tools students can write their topic/problem/issue/question in the middle and then start mind mapping causes and effects under each quadrant. Not every cause requires an effect and vice-versa. This activity can be taken a step further by using lines and arrow to show the relationships between each cause and effect. The Compass tools adds another layer of understanding to the complexity of an issue, especially when students need to come back together after their individual research to think of a solution. By creating causal connections between the perspectives (nodes) that are included under each lens the students can start to visualize which nodes are good leverage points for creating change and subsequently being good starting points for possible solutions that they can research further. Full description here: https://surzynteaches.org/2018/02/13/compass-tool-for-capstone/</p>	
Reflection	
Plusses:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students were really able to expand their thinking and brainstorm the many perspectives under each quadrant of the Sustainability Compass. 	
Challenges:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe that some groups would benefit from doing this activity silently first to allow more ideas to flow, rather than having a leader in the group trying to control what is written down. 	



**Suggestions for other practitioners and educators:**

I think experimenting with the Compass tools is a great idea since it has many possibilities. It doesn't need to be limited to one type of lesson but can be adjusted just like any other tool - to fulfill the needs of the students.

Evidence and Resources: [Social Justice Presentation](#)

