

Ranking the World's Problems

On your own, consider the following world problems. Give each a rating from 0-10 with 10 being of critical importance and 0 being of minimal importance. Also, add and rate any additional problems that you feel are important, but are not listed.

Record each of these in your notebook with the rating (1-10) you have assigned.

_____ AIDS and infectious diseases

_____ Minority, racial, ethnic problems

_____ Crime

_____ National security and defense

_____ Energy shortage

_____ Nuclear weapons proliferation

_____ Environmental degradation

_____ Population growth

_____ Fresh water scarcity

_____ Refugees

_____ Health care access

_____ Religious Persecution

_____ Homelessness

_____ Substance abuse and drug traffic

_____ Hunger

_____ Terrorism and violence

_____ Inequality of women

_____ War or threats of war

_____ Lack of educational opportunities

Any others you may want to add:

Top Five

Now, select the five most critical world problems from your ranking and write them in order (from most critical to least) in your notebook.

Group Ranking

In a group of four (4), develop a process to rate the world's problems according to the ratings you wrote down in your notebook. Give each problem a ranking from 1-10, with 10 being of most critical importance and 0 being of minimal importance. Include and rate problems that the group feels are important, but were not listed.

Each of you should write your group ranking in your own notebook.

Group Top Five

Now, select the five most critical world problems from your groups ranking and write them in order (from most critical to least) in your own notebook.

*Adapted from the Education Committee of the United Nations Association of Northern California