

The Big Questions

From LPWG meeting September 10, 2008

Group 1 – Cultural Perspectives (outside the U.S.)

- How do I think beyond myself?
- Who am I in relationship to the rest of the world?
- How are the structures of the rest of the world something that I should value?

Group 2 – Minority Perspectives (in any country)

In all questions, “minority” could represent a broad range of attributes: ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender.

- Do I understand the unique challenges faced by members of any minority within a larger community?
- What are the effects of systematic under-representation and/or discrimination on the members of such a minority?
- How would you respond or react if you were a member of such a minority?

Group 3 – Ethical and Moral Reasoning

- What are the values of an ethical human being?
- What are the struggles of an ethical human being?
- What is a good life and why is it so hard to live?

Group 4 – Civic Engagement

- How do I understand the political, economic, social, and cultural issues that challenge a community today?
- How do I understand how change and improvement have taken place in the past in a community?
- How can I engage in a form of change to improve the community I live in?

Group 5 – Historical Perspectives

- How does the past shape/affect the present and the future?

Group 6 – Artistic/Literary Perspectives

- How is human experience expressed in non-literal/metaphorical ways?
- How does artistic expression both reflect and shape the human experience, if at all?
- How is the world shaped through art?

Group 7 – Scientific Method

- How do we understand the physical & social world that we inhabit using a method of rational inquiry involving forming hypotheses, testing them, collecting and analyzing quantitative data, and drawing conclusions?
- Students will engage in this method of inquiry directly by exploring a particular problem within the content focus of each particular course.