

Definition of Societal Issues Bullseye

This method is helpful to introduce and deepen your students' understanding of societal issues. During this activity the students will work on defining what a societal issue is, practice respectful conversations, share their own thinking and listen to the thinking of other and specifically practice expressing non-judgmental attitudes when faced with disagreement. In addition to this principle, this activity support Learning Through Dialogue and Interaction and Learning Through Thinking and Learning Through Reflection and Evaluation.

Expected Outcomes – students will:

- ✓ Be able to define what societal issues are
- ✓ Be able to use a set of criteria to categorize issues
- ✓ show willingness to alter his/her point of view
- ✓ Be able to take part in a conversation, support their views and respect the views of others.
- ✓ Be able to demonstrate active listening behaviours.
- ✓ Be able to participate in discussing societal issues (individually and in group)
- ✓ Be able to express non-judgmental attitudes towards students expressing conflicting views on societal issues.
- ✓ Be able to reflect on how their thinking has changed
- ✓ Be able to demonstrate and explain how their thinking evolved and changed at different moments

Timing

The timing of this activity is dependent on many factors: experience, classroom culture, and how you implement it, etc., the minimum amount of time you should plan for the Bullseye is 45 minutes.

Material

Offline	Blended
Large sheet of paper or board	Create an account to Google Jamboard or Miro Share the link of the digital tool with your students, so they can get access on their device. You will need: A screen to show the overview to the students.

	A laptop, tablet for each small group of students.
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Prepare yourself

- Review the definition of a societal issue
- Prepared societal issue criteria in language appropriate for your classroom.
- Give each student a paper to note their top 3 at the end of step 2.
- These are the four criteria that define a societal issue:
 - It has a negative consequence on a large number of people
 - Most people agree that it is a problem
 - It challenges a shared value
 - We can work towards addressing the issue

Blended:



- Create a Venn diagram on Miro, or Google Jamboard with four circles as a Bullseye.
- Make sure every pair/group has a device.

Step-by-step

1 Input Introduction

Introduce your students to the idea and definition of societal issues.

2 Brainstorm

Ask your students to give you lots of examples of problems and issues they think are societal issues.

These are best put on sticky notes (one issue per note) so that they can be moved to another place later.

3 Do they fit the criteria?

Describe and write down the four defining criteria of a societal issue.

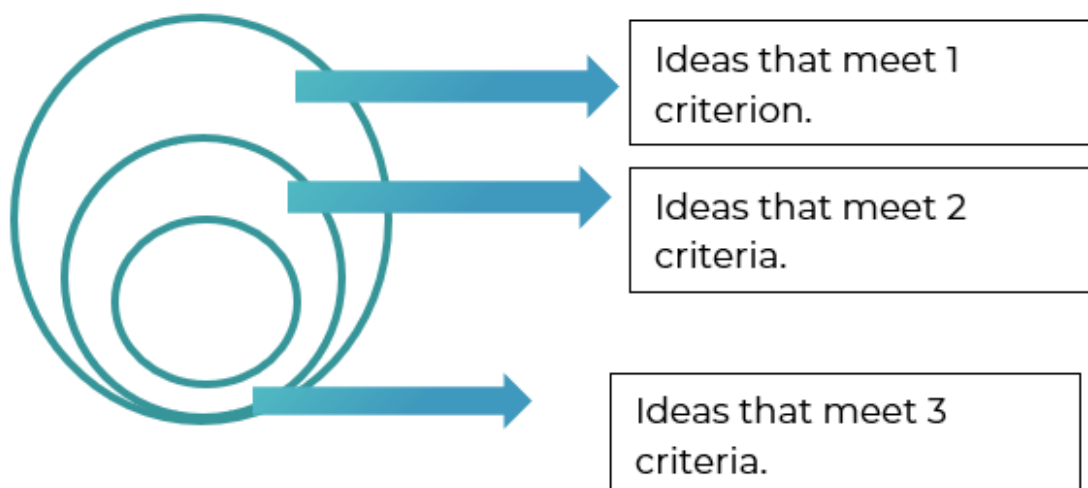


Draw a large bullseye and explain that when an issue from the brainstorm fits all 4 criteria then it goes into the bullseye, if it fits 3 criteria then it goes into the next outer circle, etc.

You can begin by looking together at an issue and determining how many criteria that one issue meets and putting a number by it, then you can continue to work through each issue in this way. As the students begin to understand give them an opportunity to do this independently. This step will provide many opportunities for rich discussion among the students as they present their thinking about why an issue meets certain criteria or not. This will help them develop their thinking, logic and presentation skills

Invite the students to move the sticky notes to the correct placement on the bullseye according to the number of criteria the issue meets (step #3).

Review the issues/problems that are in the bullseye and reiterate that they are societal issues.



4 Reflection (content and process)

Content: Either in a group discussion or individually, ask the students to discuss why some of the issues/problems are NOT societal issues.

Process: How did we determine which issue/problem was a societal issue? What did we do? Did this exercise help you define what a societal issue is? In what way did it and in what way didn't it?

5 Bringing it Home

Have the students take home a paper with a bullseye on it with the four criteria. They will then share it at home and ask people in their house for issues and show them where on the bullseye the issue belongs.



If everyone has digital capabilities, you can create a shared Miro or Google Jamboard where all the students can add in issues they collected. They can move an issue on the shared Bulls Eye and explain why and then invite the person in their home to move some as well.