

Government; Law

1. What kinds of powers does the government have?
2. Where do these powers come from?
3. Is your government the same thing as your country?
4. Is your country different from other countries? If so, how? If not, why does it have any special expectation of your loyalty?
5. What kinds of issues are appropriate for criminal laws, for civil laws, or no laws at all?
6. What is the relationship between law and morality?
7. What are the everyday principles of fairness?
8. When is it right to disobey?
9. Language policies (official government policies)

Politics; Citizenship

1. Why do so many Americans vote against their own interests?
2. Why does the religious right have so much power?
3. Why don't young people vote?
4. How people think about society, the economy, and politics -- how they understand their own position in the economy, how they evaluate public policies, how they decide on a party or candidate. Clear, critical thinking may be able to help students recognize irrational appeals and place specific issues in a broader intellectual context.
5. Citizenship: what it entails, what it's like elsewhere, how it was invented, how it is maintained, the fact that it is a set of *performed actions* rather than a right or a privilege, etc.
6. The role of the individual in society/culture/community.
7. How do we think beyond the customary oppositions between the individual and the social? Qualitative and quantitative research? Critical and creative? Aesthetics and politics?

Inequalities; Oppression; Violence

1. Woman's role in society - within this, issues of sexual assault and domestic violence
2. Cultural imperialism
3. Social class disparities and American perceptions about the poor (and why they are poor)

Religions and Cultures

1. What is the function of religion in society?
2. How do religions go about making claims of truth? In the Christian context, the development of Christianity, the Bible, and how politics and power play into these topics.
3. In the United States -- which claims to separate religion and the state -- where does religion enter into the public sphere? What are some problems that arise?
4. Religion: comparative, ideological, skeptical, political, and other ways of addressing the exclusively human phenomenon of religious belief
5. The roles of religion in society.
6. Is there more wisdom in traditional societies whose ways we have largely left behind, or more in a future we do not know?
7. "The clash of civilizations": Is it really happening? Is it getting worse? What is it going to do to your life?

Consumerism

1. Consumer choices in daily life: fashion, choices among foods, vehicles, houses, recreations - all of which have consequences, ethical, human and natural.
2. Getting into debt, declaring bankruptcy, and investing one's savings.

Humanity

1. What does it mean to be human?
2. What does it mean to be a person?
3. What moves us?

Science and Religion

1. Both in the context of the "science-religion debate" and in general, people need to think clearly about the goals, methods, and claims of science. There are people who hear "theory of evolution" and think "that means it's JUST a theory."
2. The schism between science and religion with respect to evolution (and probably other issues).

Thinking and Learning

1. How do we learn or how do we think?
2. What IS critical thinking? Of what does it consist? What are its objects and methods?
3. How does language shape, and not only express, thinking?
4. What is fiction, and how is it related to imagination, to hypothesis, and to models?
5. What are the values and limitations of pursuing any particular disciplinary path?
6. Argument: how arguments are constructed, how they can be refuted, how evidence is deployed, recognizable forms of argument, etc.
7. Persuasion: how it happens, how it fails, how to persuade others, how to avoid being persuaded, etc.

Media

1. How have new media transformed our roles as agents and recipients of knowledge?
2. How do various media (advertising, news, entertainment) construct reality for us? What difference does it make in our lives?
3. New media for social change, citizen media, and public interest entertainment.
4. What narratives have been / must be invented to address important issues--and, in doing so, the imagination--in diverse media?

Mathematics

1. Arrow's theorem on the impossibility of a social choice procedure (e.g., voting, ranking, etc.) that is fair to all.
2. Hardy's theorem on the persistence of recessive (genetic) traits within populations and its consistency with Darwin's theory of evolution.
3. Two person, zero-sum games and their solution; and the Prisoner's Dilemma, the Tit-For-Tat strategy, and the evolution of cooperation in a non-zero sum "game".
4. The inclusion-exclusion and complementation principles, their application in Venn Diagrams, and

their connection to the logical meanings of "and", "or", and "not".

5. Conditional probability and its connection to modifiers of and subordinate clauses on subjects; Bayesian probabilities (and reasoning); and their application to diagnostic situations.
6. Linear modelling, especially input-output (resource allocation) models.
7. The use of differential equations to model situations that change.
8. The use of Riemann sums for computing totalities and the definite integral.
9. The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus (Isaac Newton) that relates items 7 and 8 and provided the mathematical foundation for the development of the natural sciences.

Education

1. Language and education
2. Disparities in access to quality education

Interpersonal Skills

1. How do strong interpersonal skills (emotional maturity) contribute to a person's success? What about his or her happiness?

Stem Cell Research

1. Stem Cell research: what it is, what it does, how it works, etc.