Understand: Problem and Solution Trees

Discover the causes and consequences of your chosen injustice.

In this lesson, you will research the causes and consequences of your chosen injustice. A **cause** refers to the force, circumstance, behavior, or person that is causing the injustice. Causes of the injustice will include researching the history of the injustice and who is perpetuating this injustice. A **consequence** refers to the resulting outcome or experience. Consequences of the injustice will include who is affected by it and who is working towards solving this injustice.

- Use the guiding questions on ***Understand: Researching the Injustice Worksheet*** to research the history, causes, and results of this injustice (books, articles, online, etc.).

- Review the example ***Problems Tree*** and ***Solutions Tree*** to learn how to create your team’s own ***Problems Tree*** and ***Solutions Tree***.

- Create a ***Problems Tree*** for your given injustice using the ***Understand: Problems Tree Worksheet*** or a large chart paper to display your tree. Be creative when making your tree! Feel free to use markers, paint, construction paper or other art materials. Once finished, reflect on your problem tree with your group. Which parts are the most serious? What did you discover as unique in this process?

- Go through the same process as above with your ***Solutions Tree*** using ***Understand: Solutions Tree Worksheet***.
Understand: Researching the Injustice Worksheet

Your name: ____________________________________________________________

Your group name: _____________________________________________________

Use the following questions to guide your research and record your findings.

• What is the history of the Injustice?
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• Which groups are causing the Injustice or allowing it to continue?
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• Which groups are on the receiving end of it?
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• What are the consequences of the Injustice?
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________

• Who is currently working on or has worked to address the Injustice?
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
  __________________________________________________
Understand: Problem Tree Worksheet

Problem Tree

Causes

For each Cause ask, “What might have caused this and why?” Draw each cause as a root growing off of the main trunk, labeled “Primary Injustice.” When you have an answer to that question, go deeper by asking, “What might have caused that and why?” Keep inquiring until you have at least three levels of inquiry. This will give you and your Team a well-rounded perspective on the deepest Causes of your chosen Injustice. As you drill down deeper asking “why?” draw smaller and smaller roots off of the larger root Causes.

Consequences

Next, in the branches, write all of the negative consequences of this state of injustice – what harm does this cause in the world? In your community? How might it affect others?
Understand: Solutions Tree Worksheet

Solution Tree

You can use a similar process to build a Solution Tree. In this case, imagine what the world would look like if you were successful. You will create a mirror image of your Problem Tree. This time, imagine what the future would look like if this injustice did not exist. Write this desired alternative in the trunk of the tree. Next, in the branches, write all of the positive consequences of this new alternative – what does this good cause in the world? Finally, turn to the roots and ask: How could you reach this good alternative? Keep asking the same question up to three times to brainstorm more ideas that will help you identify a solution to your chosen Injustice.

**EXAMPLE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hire more teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide more training to teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide additional support to these students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create special opportunities for students with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create inclusive social activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide awareness training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run a disability awareness day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSEQUENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers feel less stressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids with disabilities feel included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All students are aware of disability issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic performance improves for students with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School is an inclusive community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESIRED ALTERNATIVE**

Students with disabilities are treated fairly

1. **How?**
   - Provide support to teachers
   - Support academic performance for students with disabilities
   - Provide opportunities for students with disabilities
   - Increase awareness of disability issues

2. **How?**
   - Provide more training to teachers
   - Provide more additional support to these students
   - Create inclusive social activities
   - Provide awareness training

3. **How?**
   - Run a disability awareness day

4. **How?**
   - Hire more teachers
   - Provide more training to teachers
   - Provide additional support to these students
   - Create special opportunities for students with disabilities

5. **How?**
   - Provide support to teachers
   - Support academic performance for students with disabilities
   - Provide opportunities for students with disabilities
   - Increase awareness of disability issues

Peace First
Understand: Solutions Tree Worksheet

Your name: _______________________________________________________

Your group name: ________________________________________________