

Preparing to Teach the Enduring Issues Essay

1. What are Enduring Issues?

Starting in June 2019, the New York State Global History Regents Exam will feature one long form essay. The prompt will be the same every year. Students will need to examine five documents and relate those documents to an enduring issue in human history. To help teachers and students connect the threads of 10,000 years of history through recurring themes, we offer the following list of Enduring Issues which will be weaved throughout the curriculum.

Conflict Conflict is a serious disagreement or argument. There can be conflict between individuals, groups of people, and even nations.	What causes conflict? What effects does it have?
Cooperation Cooperation is the process of working together to achieve the same goal. You can see the effects of cooperation when someone helps you lift a table, when you play on a team, or when nations come together to solve a mutual problem.	Why do we cooperate with one another? What effects can cooperation have?
Power Power is the ability to influence or control the behavior of people and it is a part of every human interaction. You can see the effects of power in your relationships with your family and friends, and in schools, sports, business, and government.	How is power gained, consolidated, maintained, and lost?
Inequality Inequality is the state of being unequal. When there is inequality, one group has more power than others.	Why is there inequality? What effects does it have?
Scarcity Scarcity is the state of not having enough of something. Everything we use in our daily life comes from the Earth and there is a limited supply of resources on this planet. Some places have access to more water than others, some have access to oil. Since resources are scarce, we trade for them.	In a world with scarce resources, how do people get what they need and want? What are the effects of their actions?
Innovation An innovation is a change, a new method or idea. Innovations positive and negative impacts.	Do the benefits of innovation outweigh the costs?
Interconnectedness Interconnectedness is the state of having connections or relationships. For example, the more people you know from a neighborhood, the more interconnected you are to it. Throughout history, societies and countries have been more or less interconnected. Increased interconnectedness can be caused by more communication and trade. Interconnectedness can have both positive and negative effects.	Do the benefits of interconnectedness outweigh the costs?
Ideas and Beliefs Our ideas and beliefs shape the way we look at the world. Ideas and beliefs can come from observations, religion, parents, books, or friends.	How do ideas and beliefs shape our lives and the world around us?
Environmental Impact Our environment is the area in which we live. We are affected by our environment and we have an effect on it. This is true of your local environment (your home, your classroom, and your neighborhood) and the larger environment (your state, your country, and your world).	How does our environment affect us? How do we affect it?

2. What is the Enduring Issues Essay Prompt?

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PART 3—EXTENDED ESSAY

An enduring issue is an issue that exists across time. It is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

In your essay

- Identify and define an enduring issue raised by this set of documents.
- Using your knowledge of Social Studies and evidence from the documents, argue why the issue you selected is significant and how it has endured across time.

Be sure to

- Identify the issue based on a historically accurate interpretation of three documents.
- Define the issue using evidence from *at least three* documents
- Argue that this is a significant issue that has endured by showing:
 - How the issue has affected people or been affected by people
 - How the issue has continued to be an issue or changed over time
- Include outside information from your knowledge of social studies and evidence from the documents.

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