

The IRR Lenses

AP Seminar with Mrs. Cohen | the.same.eleven.lenses.as.apseminarcohen.com

A lens is the angle you look through. Put on the economic lens and money questions jump out; put on the ethical lens and right-and-wrong questions jump out. A lens is a way of looking. A perspective is what someone argues once they have looked. Your IRR takes one of these eleven lenses on your team's question, and your group needs a different lens for each member: two people on the same lens write two papers that see the same thing.

Choosing yours: your two articles hint at your lens. Read the guiding questions below and pick the lens whose questions you already want to answer. Then, under your name on the team slide, write one line: what your lens puts in focus that your teammates' lenses cannot.

Cultural and Social

how do groups, norms, and identities shape this?

- How is this problem represented or discussed in popular culture?
- What social implications does this problem have?
- How does it affect how society is organized or structured?
- Does this problem disproportionately affect a particular social or cultural group?
- What social or cultural changes could help solve this problem?

Artistic and Philosophical

what does this mean, and how is it represented?

- How is this problem represented artistically?
- Could art (fine art, music, literature, film, television) be part of a solution to this problem?
- What philosophical stances or beliefs does this problem involve?
- How are artists engaging with this problem?
- Are there design-based solutions to this problem (architecture, etc.)?

Political and Historical

who holds power here, and how did we get here?

- What are the different political perspectives on this problem?
- If divided by party lines, what is the reasoning behind each party's stance?
- What is the history of this problem?
- How have people attempted to address it in the past?
- What has prevented this problem from being solved already?

Environmental

what does this do to the natural world?

- What environmental consequences does this problem have?
- What environments will be affected by this problem?
- What environmental actions might solve this problem?
- Are there unintended consequences of possible environmental solutions?
- What environmental ripple effects exist due to this problem?
- What might happen to humans as a result of environmental changes resulting from this problem?

Economic

who pays, who profits, and what does it cost?

- Are there economic reasons this problem exists?
- Who profits as a result of this problem? Who loses money?
- What economic solutions exist for this problem?
- What will a given solution cost? Who will pay for it?
- Will solving this problem be beneficial or detrimental to the economy?

Scientific and/or Medical

what does the evidence and research show?

- What is the science behind this problem?
- Are there scientific solutions to this problem? What innovations could address it?
- How effective are the scientific solutions? What limitations do they have?
- What medical effects could this problem have?
- Are there medical solutions to this problem? How effective are they?

Futuristic

where is this heading, and what happens if it continues?

- If this problem is not solved, what will be the consequences in the future?
- What are the possible future consequences of solving this problem?
- How will the future be changed by solving or not solving the problem?
- What precedents for the future might be set by solving or not solving this problem?

Ethical and/or Religious

what is right here, and by whose values?

- What ethical issues exist around this problem?
 - How do we know what the right or wrong thing to do in this case is?
 - What ethical precedents might be set by solving or not solving this problem?
 - What are the perspectives of different religions on this problem? Why does each religion hold this perspective?
 - How might different religious perspectives affect work toward a solution?
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Legal

what do the laws allow, forbid, and leave unclear?

- What laws or regulations exist around this problem?
- Are there court decisions related to this problem?
- How might legal precedent affect different solutions to the problem?
- Are there legislative solutions? What issues might exist in getting them passed?

Educational

how does this shape what and how people learn?

- What educational programs exist around this problem?
- What kind of education might be helpful to solve this problem?
- How does a lack of education contribute to this problem?
- How does this problem affect the education and learning of stakeholders?
- How does this problem affect the educational experience of students?

International

how does this look beyond your borders?

- How have other countries solved or addressed this problem?
- How successful have their solutions been? What solutions might work here?
- What factors in the United States might prevent another country's solution from working here?
- How would another country's solution need to be modified to be implemented in the United States?

Remember: a perspective is a source's argument, not a lens and not a group of people. Inside one lens you should still find two or three perspectives that clash.