

Works, texts and SDGs

Focusing on a global issue

A global issue has significance on a wide or large scale, but it must not be formulated in terms that are too broad. The fields of inquiry are good starting points to determine a global issue but they are not a global issue in themselves, and will not be suitable for exploration of two texts unless they are defined in a more specific way. The examples below will help to clarify the balance that needs to be struck between the broad and the specific, adding specificity to the field of inquiry without being so detailed that it becomes a local issue.

Global issues identified through fields of inquiry

Scale	Description	Comments
Field of inquiry	Culture, identity and community—colonialism	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation.
Global issue	How do societies reconcile native and colonial influences?	Appropriate for presentation; works/texts engage the issue from varied perspectives
Local issue	A newly independent nation sets out to rename sites named for prominent colonizers.	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Scale	Description	Comments
Field of inquiry	Beliefs, values and education—shaping educational systems	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation
Global issue	The effects of allowing new populations access to education	Appropriate for presentation; works/texts engage the issue from varied perspectives
Local issue	A regional government develops a plan to accommodate an influx of refugee children into the public-school system.	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Scale	Description	Comments
Field of inquiry	Politics, power and justice—corruption	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation
Global issue	Corruption as an obstacle to achieving greater equality	Appropriate for presentation; works/texts engage the concern from varied perspectives
Local issue	The government of a country has impeached their president on charges of corruption	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Scale	Description	Comments
Field of inquiry	Art, creativity and the imagination—freedom of expression	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation

Scale	Description	Comments
Global issue	The effects of curtailing freedom of expression	Appropriate for presentation; works/ texts engage with the issue from varied perspectives
Local issue	A painter's work is deemed too controversial to display in an exhibition.	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Scale	Description	Comments
Field of inquiry	Science, technology and the natural world—progress	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation
Global issue	The importance of finding a balance between progress and respect for nature	Appropriate for presentation; works/ texts engage the concern from varied perspectives
Local issue	The construction of a dam in a particular community	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Global issues arising from SDGs

Scale	Description	Comments
SDG	Gender equality	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation
Global issue	The impact of religion on gender equality	Appropriate for presentation; works/ texts engage the concern from varied perspectives
Local issue	Inequality between male and female members in a particular religious hierarchy	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Scale	Description	Comments
SDG	Zero hunger	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation
Global issue	World trade inequality as a cause of hunger	Appropriate for presentation; works/ texts engage the concern from varied perspectives
Local issue	Increase of malnutrition and starvation in one particular country	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Scale	Description	Comments
SDG	Good jobs and economic growth	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation
Global issue	Immigrants and their work prospects in hosts countries	Appropriate for presentation; works/ texts engage the concern from varied perspectives

Scale	Description	Comments
Local issue	Modern slavery in a particular country	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue

Scale	Description	Comments
SDG	Sustainable cities and communities	Insufficiently focused to be a useful lens for investigation
Global issue	Urban migration, urbanization and their consequences on identity	Appropriate for presentation; works/texts engage the concern from varied perspectives
Local issue	The impact of youth migrating to the city from a particular rural community or small town	Too specific for works to engage with this particular expression of the issue