

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Issue Exploration

Many teachers want their students to be exposed to a range of issues and explore them before deciding on an issue. The issue seminar format described below is modified from veteran Mikva teacher Bill Lamme's classroom.

#### **Issue Awareness Seminars Format**

Students are divided into issue groups. Each issue group is responsible for planning and presenting a three day seminar on their selected topic. These seminars follow the following format:

**Day 1: Informational Presentation** All members of group must play an equal role.

- Group must use at least one visual aid: large poster, power point, or video.
- The presentation must include:
  - Definition and general summary of the issue.
  - Case Study: an in depth look at a case study (specific example).
  - Homework (an article or articles) for the rest of the class to read prior to the presentation.

#### **Day 2: Guest speaker**

- Each group is responsible for bringing a guest speaker to speak with the class.
- Group must prep the guest speaker on audience and purpose of visit.
- Group will introduce speaker and manage class time.
- Group will write a thank you note to guest speaker.

#### **Day 3: Action Day**

- Group must describe actions that are now happening or have happened in the past on their issue.
  - What are the major groups working on this issue?
  - Include all arenas of activity: laws and/or proposed legislation, lobbying, conferences, educational and public relations efforts, petition drives, letter writing campaigns, fund raising, protests, demonstrations, .
- Group will highlight local action on the issue.
- Group will propose a specific action or actions for the class to work on.

### **Examples of possible issues for Issue Exploration Seminars:**

Violence  
Transportation  
Domestic Abuse  
Depression  
Teen Pregnancy  
Lack of Sex Education  
Unemployment  
Prison Abuse  
Corruption in government  
Voter Suppression  
US involvement in wars abroad  
Drug Trafficking  
Climate Change  
Environmental Justice  
Endangered species  
Animal Rights  
Immigration/Immigration Reform  
Drug abuse  
Homophobia/anti-gay policies  
Sweatshops/Fair-trade  
Education  
School to Prison Pipeline  
Recidivism rates  
Drop-out  
Cost of college/student debt  
Bullying  
Obesity rates  
Suicide  
Gun laws