

# Consulting the Disciplines

Divide the class in to 4-5 groups and give each group one of the following issues.

- 1) the effect of global warming on the environment
- 2) ending poverty among school children
- 3) increasing voter registration among communities of color (i.e., minority groups)
- 4) the effect of violence in videogames on children's behavior
- 5) the impact to the global economy of illegally downloading movies from the internet

Instructions for students:

Pretend that you are the President of the United States and need to make a decision about actions to take with regards to this issue. Which academic disciplines would help you understand more about the issues involved? How could you make sure you were examining all sides of the issue? Are there any disciplines that would not be useful to you? Why not? How would you go about finding the right people to consult with?

Make notes next to each discipline regarding its usefulness to you and why.

Humanities (literature, philosophy, history, religion, etc.):

Social sciences (psychology, sociology, ethnic studies, education, economics, political science, global studies, etc.):

Arts (drama, film, music, dance, and art):

Quantitative studies (math, statistics, computer science, etc.):

Physical and biological sciences (biology, physics, ecology, geology, chemistry, environmental studies, etc.):

Engineering sciences (civil, electrical, chemical, mechanical, computer, etc.):

*Have the groups report back to the large group about what they discussed.*