**Unit 2 Handout 1: Lens and Perspectives**

**A. Lenses**

Within the AP Seminar course, you can make cross-curricular connections within a theme by looking at the theme through different lenses.

There are eight lenses identified in the course and exam description:

* Environmental
* Scientific
* Economic
* Political and Historical
* Artistic and Philosophical
* Cultural and Social (culture consists of the beliefs, behaviors, objects, and other characteristics common to the members. Through culture, people and groups define themselves and then conform to society's shared values and contribute to society.)
* Futuristic
* Ethical

When you are working in you teams for Part I, each member of the team will look at the topic through a different lens.

*Which lens do you think you will prefer to research? Explain.*

**B. Lens Graphic Organizer Example**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cultural & SocialHow does a democratic society explain the inequity of social classes?How do different cultural understand the meaning of democracy? | Theme: Democracy | FuturisticDoes democracy have a future? |
| Artistic & PhilosophicalHow has democracy shaped the modern understanding of civic virtue and aspiration?How have representations of democracy change over time? | EnvironmentalDoes a democratic system inevitably mean that the environment is a lesser priority?Should other species on the planet have representation? |
| EthicalIs democracy equally fair to all citizens?Is it possible to have a truly democratic system of government? | EconomicWhat is the relationship between capitalism and democracy?Should there be a limit on financial contributions to political parties? |
| Political & HistoricalWhat is democracy?How has democracy changed over thousands of years? | ScientificShould governments have a role in stopping controversial practices, such as stem cell research?  |

**C. Lens Graphic Organizer**

*With a group you will create questions for each lens.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cultural & Social | **Racial Discrimination**  | Futuristic |
| Artistic & Philosophical | Environmental |
| Ethical | Economic |
| Political & Historical | Scientific |

**D. Perspectives**

Multiple Perspectives can be better understood if you think about a conversation at a dinner party.  In order to have a successful dinner party you need to be selective about your guests.

* Who are they?
* What contribution would this person bring to the table that another guest does not already represent?