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Human Rights

The homelessness fact book contains information which may help students with the questions.

Below is a list of 10 basic human rights. The full list of 30 can be found at <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

Your task is to go through the list and cross off the 'RIGHT' which you believe is least important to you. You need to continue this process until only THREE RIGHTS are left.

- 1. THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION** - Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory.
- 2. FOOD AND SHELTER FOR ALL** - Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and of their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services
- 3. RIGHT TO NATIONALITY** - Everyone has the right to a nationality.
- 4. NO TORTURE** - No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- 5. EQUAL BEFORE LAW** - All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.
- 6. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT** - Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including their own, and to return to their country.
- 7. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT** - Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his/her religion or belief.
- 8. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION** - Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- 9. RIGHT TO LEISURE** - Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.
- 10. RIGHT TO WORK** - Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.



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1. Which right did you cross off first? Why?

2. Which three rights did you choose to keep? Briefly explain why you chose these three rights.

3. Was it difficult to choose between some rights? Which ones?

4. Do you believe you/your family have all of these rights met?



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5. Do you believe everyone in Australia has all of these rights met? If not, who do you think is not having these rights met?
6. People experiencing homelessness do not have all their basic rights met. From the list of 10, which rights in particular are not being met for people experiencing homelessness?
7. Go to <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>. This site has an expanded list of 30 basic human rights. Are there any new rights on this list that are not being met for people experiencing homelessness? If so, what are they?
8. Considering your answer to questions 6 and 7, how would you feel if you were being denied these basic rights? What impact would this have on your life? What emotions might you be feeling?



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REFLECTION

1. Which right did you cross off first? Why?

Answers will vary between each student. Ask a range of students and get them to explain their thinking and reasoning behind why they chose to cross off this right.

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2. Which three rights did you choose to keep? Briefly explain why you chose these three rights.

Answers will vary between each student. This is a good opportunity to poll the class and see which were the 3 most popular rights that students kept. Again, the main aim of this question is to have students using their higher order thinking skills. The 3 rights they choose are not so important, the focus should be on their thinking and justifying of their decisions.

3. Was it difficult to choose between some rights? Which ones?

Answers will vary between each student.

4. Do you believe you/your family have all of these rights met?

Answers will vary between each student.

5. Do you believe everyone in Australia has all of these rights met? If not, who do you think is not having these rights met?

Students should come to the conclusion that not everyone in Australia has all of their basic human rights met. They may mention people experiencing homelessness, Indigenous Australians, refugees etc.

6. People experiencing homelessness do not have all their basic rights met. From the list of 10, which rights in particular are not being met for people experiencing homelessness?

The most obvious right that students should select from the list is number 2. They may also identify that people experiencing homelessness might find it difficult to access number 1 and number 10.

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7. Go to <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/> This site has an expanded list of 30 basic human rights. Are there any new rights on this list that are not being met for people experiencing homelessness? If so, what are they?

Some of the human rights identified on the UN site that may not be met for people experiencing homelessness are:

Article 1 – everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights.

Article 3 – everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 21 – everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country.

Article 22 – everyone has the right to social security and realisation of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his/her dignity.

8. Considering your answer to questions 6 and 7, how would you feel if you were being denied these basic rights? What impact would this have on your life? What emotions might you be feeling? Answers will vary between each student.

Answers will vary between students. The goal of this question is to develop empathy in the students.