

Eliminating World Poverty – what should the DfID do?

Either in preparation for your class debate on ‘What should the DfID fund?’ and the pan-London Video Conference in June, or as a follow-up to the debate, you can get your class to explore the issues of development as presented in a government consultation document and thereby learn by taking part in a real political activity.

The screenshot shows the DFID website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with sections for 'INFORMATION' (Introduction, Foreword, About, Downloads, Policy) and 'THE DOCUMENT' (Building our common future, Global economic growth, Climate change, Fragile and conflict-affected countries, International institutional reform). The main content area is titled 'Introduction' and includes a welcome message, a 'What is this about?' section, a 'How do I get started?' section, a 'What happens next?' section, and a 'How else can I get involved?' section.

Public Consultation Process

The Department for International Development (DFID) is producing a new White Paper looking at the challenges facing the world and the global solutions we need to develop together to address the economic downturn, climate change and conflict and security.

You can read about their recent conference, see a library of you-tube videos and get links from to various relevant sites at: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Quick-guide-to-DFID/How-we-do-it/Eliminating-World-Poverty---your-chance-to-shape-the-debate/>

The Public Consultation Document will be on its website, <http://consultation.dfid.gov.uk/>, for 12 weeks from 5 March 2009. The public consultation process closes on Wednesday 27 May 2009. You can make comments on the document itself or you can send your comments directly to whitepaper@dfid.gov.uk

The DfID are also consulting with a range of partners such as other government departments, overseas partners, civil society organisations, faith based organisations, trade unions and others to feed into the draft.

The White Paper will be published in summer 2009.

Download a word document of the consultation document:

<http://consultation.dfid.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/eliminating-world-poverty.doc>

As a part of real world use of ICT and of active citizenship your students can use the DfID consultation site to look at the issues. There is one page for each part of the document, with the questions at the end, and there is a feedback comment form on the right hand side that your students can fill-in. They are difficult and complex questions so your students will have to research them first.

An alternative is to download the document, which has the same structure as the site and for your students to work in groups to explore those issues, to create a powerpoint presentation and lead a class discussion that could end with the class writing their suggestions for the answers, or voting on ones that were suggested during the presentation or discussion.

This screenshot shows a specific page from the consultation site titled 'Minimising the impact of the downturn'. It features a 'Your feedback' form with fields for Name (required), Email address (required), and Your website (optional). Below the form is a 'Submit Comment' button. The page content discusses the economic downturn since World War II and asks for suggestions on how to minimize its impact on the poor.

www.global.igfi.net and click under ‘Highlights’ on What should we fund?