

Introduction to Poverty in the USA Unit:  
Inquiry Question:

(Pritchard)

**How does Poverty affect Raleigh and how can I have a positive effect on the issue?**

**In the end:**

**You will use the photostory application to create a short video displaying the signs of poverty in Raleigh NC. If you feel you live in a poverty stricken neighborhood you can focus on just that area. Lastly you will write a letter to a chosen representative detailing your issue, as well as your solution to that issue using lettrs.com.**

Lesson 1:

**Title:**

What is Poverty?:

**Objectives:**

Class discussion in order to come to a class definition of Poverty.  
Identify Issues related to poverty.

**Standards:**

**Summary:**

Students will be asked to come to an understanding of what poverty is and the realization that we see signs and issue related to poverty all around us. Students will come to their own understanding and create a class definition. This will be facilitated by the instructor on the overhead, or dry erase board. Teacher will play youtube video that shows poverty as well as signs of poverty and issues related to poverty.

**Lesson Materials:**

Cause and effect handout.  
Projector  
Computer usage  
You tube access  
Dry erase board/markers

Headphones with Microphones  
Internet access

**Lesson Procedure:**

**(10 minutes) Journal:** What is poverty? and what issues are related to poverty? How do you know you are in a poor neighborhood? (Give students five minutes to brainstorm the big question) and lead class discussion. Key on repetitive concepts, as class will produce a definition of poverty.

**(2 minutes) Handout:** Give students the cause and effect handout that goes with “Brenda’s Got a Baby”

**(5 minutes) Directions:** Inform students they will be watching a music video by Tupac Shakur. The song and video are about a young girl in a poverty stricken environment. Students will watch video and complete handout in teacher made groups. Explain handout as a class and answer any questions.

Introduce music video that aligns with topic on local level (should relate to students)

**(15 minutes) My Choice:** Brenda’s Got a Baby by Tupac Shakur  
(Youtube)

Class Discussion after watching the video. Focus students on the issues of poverty.

Topics: drug abuse, sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, wasted youth

Summative assessments : Journals, class discussion, call on all students about journal topic.

**(15 minutes) Summative assessment:** Handout

**(15 minutes)** Now students will watch a video that clearly shows the results of excess poverty. (No schools, no public works, no police, etc.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZukhSRMkug>

Complete the handout with the short clip

**Day 2:**

**Review signs of Poverty as a class discussion**

**Introduce/Create Photostories (30 min)**

**Write Letters to Mr. Nelson Dollar and send via lettrs.com (30 min)**

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=House&nUserID=489>

Go to this web address to receive the email address for Wake County representative Nelson Dollar.

I should also receive a copy of this letter, which should summarize the issue you created the photostory about as well as your solutions.

**Teacher email here.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

### POVERTY UNIT

Issues related to Poverty from “Brenda’s Got a Baby” by Tupac Shakur. While listening to the song fill out this handout answering how Tupac presents these issues in Brenda’s story. How does her life fit into the four topics presented below?

<b>ISSUE RELATED TO POVERTY:</b>	How do these issues related to poverty affect Brenda’s Life?
Drug Abuse	
Teenage Pregnancy	
Sexual Abuse	
Wasted Youth	

Discussion Question:

What images, lyrics or symbols in the video show that Brenda lives in poverty?

Go to the following link and watch this two and a half minute news story on poverty in the United States. Answer the following Questions.

Associated Press <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZukhSRMkug>

1. What ration of Americans live in Poverty?

1 in 6

2. How many people is that?

46 million

3. In Pembroke Illinois, what are the signs of poverty?

Burning trash, yards with trash, no police, no schools, no stores, no utilities, no jobs.

4. Why did Mr. Bargy have to stop working?

Health, back, heart attack

5. How does the family survive?

Disability funds

6. How much does the family survive on a year?

18,000

7. How many People?

5

8. How far do the children have to go to attend school?

20 miles

9. Does Mr. Bargy consider himself lucky? Why?

Yes, make more than most in the area.

10. How long has it been since poverty numbers have been so high in America?

30 years.

## **PHOTOSTORY**

### **Signs of LOCAL POVERTY**

Using the photostory application you will be asked to create a short video displaying the signs of poverty in Raleigh NC. If you feel you live in a poverty stricken neighborhood you can focus on just that area.

While watching the associated press video on poverty in America you met Mr. Bargy and took a trip to Pembroke, Illinois. Pembroke had some obvious signs of poverty; burning trash, cluttered yards, no police, schools, or jobs. Many signs of poverty are available in Raleigh, NC. Your job is to create a photostory documenting signs of poverty in Raleigh NC, or local neighborhoods in the city.

You will also be asked to brainstorm possible solutions to the three signs of poverty you select. How can your city fix this problem?

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Length ;

Photostory must be 45 seconds to a minute long

Content:

- a. Introduce the city
- b. Must have at least three signs of poverty (more are always welcome).
- c. Must offer at least one possible solution to each sign of poverty identified.
- d. What would be needed to insure success with each solution (more people, money, community, etc)
- e. Do you believe that there are poorer cities in America than the one you live in? why or why not?

Visuals:

Pictures selected must be relevant to the message and meaning of presentation.

Organization/Clarity:

Present a clear detailed final product.

Does what you said make sense?

Does it stick to the topic of the assignment?

Where you sure to offer a solution to the issue?

Common Core:

Connections to standards: English Grade 11

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1](#) Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1a](#) Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1b](#) Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly and thoroughly, supplying the most relevant evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level, concerns, values, and possible biases.

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7](#) Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8](#) Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9](#) Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

o

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.7](#) Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.