



To Do List

The Millennium Development Goals are eight vital goals for addressing the needs of the world's poorest people. They are also a bit difficult for students to understand! It is worth giving students time to form their own opinions about the best ways to grapple with global poverty. It is also worth giving them ways to understand and engage with the MDGs. In doing so they will begin to have a more complex view of poverty and the best ways to eradicate it.

You Will Need:

- Post-It Notes
- Copies of '**To Do List**' – Student Handout
- Texas

Step 1

Ask students to imagine that they could sneak into the homes of the world's leaders at night and pop two post-it notes on their fridges. What sorts of jobs would they give the leaders to do? Would they get the world's leaders to deal with climate change, homelessness, poverty, war or something else? After some discussion invite students write their two post-it notes.

Step 2

Circulate copies of the Millennium Development Goals and explain that they form a blueprint for dismantling poverty. If all the world's leaders have agreed to help meet these goals then it would be worthwhile delving into them. Invite students to read the document in pairs. The student handout has all eight of the goals with a number of the "targets" set out below. These targets provide a little more detail about what has to be done for each goal to be achieved. There are a few targets that have been removed for the purpose of simplifying the document for students.

Step 3

After the initial reading ask students to read through the list again stopping to underline parts of the document with a colour code:

Red – "I don't understand"

Blue – "I disagree!"

Green – "I agree!"

Yellow – "This is the most important bit"

Step 4

Conduct a class discussion dealing first with the "I don't understand" bits. If you need extra support with this the UN websites have great background information on each goal.

Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

- Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

- Address the special needs of the least developed countries
- In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

Colour Code

Red – “I don’t understand”

Green – “I agree!”

Blue – “I disagree!”

Yellow – “This is the most important bit”