

Sociology
Lesson Plan
11/09/09

Time: This lesson will take a few class periods.

Objectives/goals

Students are introduced to the process of creating a hypothesis and testing its validity.

Students engage in thoughtful discussion about generational differences.

Students formulate a hypothesis, perform an experiment to prove/disprove hypothesis.

Students design, write, and administer a questionnaire that elicits responses to questions about generational differences.

Lesson Procedure

Introduction

The Generation Gap- Me vs. Them , Do you have the same attitudes about issues in life—such as politics, for example—as someone who is age 30? Age 50? Age 80? Do older people and younger people think alike? On what subjects might they have different opinions? Is there really such a thing as a "generation gap" Or is this a myth or assumption we make?

Main activity

Step 1: Creating a hypothesis

- Will there be differing attitudes
- Decide how you think generations may differ in their opinions on a particular topic.
- Choose two topics to study.
- Decide exactly how you think the attitudes will differ for the generations. This is your hypothesis.

Step 2: Creating the survey

-With your team create five statements for survey participants to respond to that will accurately test your hypothesis. Statements should be designed to elicit answers like "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree."

-Assign numerical values for different attitudes toward your statements. For example:

5 Strongly agree

4 Agree

3 Neutral

2 Disagree
1 Strongly disagree

You should have 20 questions: at least 10 with the numerical values

- some questions are for fun. Such as who/is was your teenage idol?; If you had to be trapped on an Island who would you choose to be trapped with? ..etc

Survey should include Age and possibly Gender

Share questions with the class.

Administer the survey

* each member of the group needs to give the survey to 4 people. 1 teen, 1 20-30 year old, 1 30-40, and one over 65

Analyze the Data:

As a group look at the results of your surveys . Was your hypothesis right?

Write a one page, double spaced paper talking about your survey and how it proved your hypothesis right or wrong. If your hypothesis was neither proven nor disproven what could you have done differently? – ask different people, more people? , phrase question differently?