Politics & International Relations

Teaching with Forum Video
Content Type

Forum videos are generally approximately 45 min in length and are filmed in front of a live audience. They examine topical issues by having a presentation from an expert followed by a question and answer session with the audience. The videos can be used within the classroom during a lesson or could be used outside of the classroom as the starting point for an independent research assignment. Forum videos provide an exciting method for stimulating debate on a topic and will lead to students asking their own questions and entering into debates on a cutting-edge subject.

Health, Homelessness, and Poverty: Keynote Address 2013

http://sk.sagepub.com/video/health-homelessness-and-poverty-keynote-address-2013

This video was filmed at the International Policy Studies Organization’s Second Annual Forum on Health, Homelessness, and Poverty. Mark Johnson, a practitioner with a long and impressive career in government, delivers the keynote speech and takes questions from students in the audience. Mark Johnson discusses his 30 years of work on homelessness, beginning with the story of how he became interested in the issue and then explaining how he has managed to achieve so many effective changes. He explores the different types of homelessness, different factors for people becoming homeless, and the challenges in addressing homelessness. The video provides a first-hand account of how changes can be made and what problems still exist. The questions asked by audience members are thought provoking and will stimulate discussion within the classroom.

Suggested Courses or Topics

This Forum video can be used in any course of public or social policy. It is also relevant for more specialized courses on urban development, socio-economic issues, government and society, or the impacts of health. It is an exciting and stimulating video that will appeal to students across a range of disciplines.

Classroom Clips

Listed below are a few examples of clips that focus on key concepts:

- This clip gives facts and figures about some of the main causes of homelessness. Clip 8:04 – 8:47.
- This clip explores some of the main ways in which Mark Johnson and his team started to address homelessness through policies and interventions. Clip 12:20 – 14:48.
- The significant problem of homelessness and veterans, and how it has been addressed, as well as the further challenges ahead. Clip 23:23 – 27:26.
- The issue of homelessness in small rural areas, and why definitions and services focus on urban rather than rural homelessness. Clip 37:22 – 42:29.

Research Assignment

See below for some example assignments that you might use for students

Mark Johnson talks about the causes and consequences of chronic homelessness and provides a range of different ways in which it might be addressed (Clip 15:32 – 18:21). Research into how your local area has attempted to tackle chronic homelessness, and analyze the extent to which they have followed or deviated from Mark Johnson’s approach.

Classroom Discussion

Here are some example questions that might be used for in-class discussion.

Mark Johnson provides a few different stories in order to illustrate and explain his approach to homelessness and the work that he has undertaken. What impact do you think his policies and work have had on people like the ones he described? How have the funding problems affected his work? Do you think that homelessness can be ended by a given time, as he initially hoped would occur? What new policies and practices would help to achieve that aim? What needs to be done to address the causes of homelessness to ensure that it does not occur?