

Instructions

This document shows a preview of an interactive topic available to young people on the Ultimate Dialogue Adventure.

In order to start a topic, young people need to find it in their Dashboard and click on Start learning,

Wealth and Poverty



What this topic covers

Wealth is often connected to having abundance, yet the experience of wealth is different for people around the world. For some, wealth provides security, comfort and sustainability, but for others, it creates instability, scarcity, and poverty. In this topic, you will explore diverse concepts of wealth, how it is created and shared, and the impact these concepts and systems can have on the world.

By the end of this topic, you will have prepared for dialogue with your peers by:



Active Listening

Listening to stories from others about different definitions and beliefs surrounding the concepts of wealth.



Reflection

Reflecting on your own definitions of wealth and how they are similar or different to others.



Global Communication

Practicing ways to challenge concepts and systems of wealth by sharing your own perspectives and opinions respectfully.



Asking Questions

Choosing questions that seek deeper understanding to learn about the way the wealth gap exists in your own and others communities.



Critical Thinking

Thinking critically about systems that create and transmit wealth and poverty, and the way they influence communities.

[Start learning](#)

Learning about wealth and poverty



What is wealth?

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Around the world, wealth is believed to be an abundance of material, immaterial, and/or spiritual gain. The way wealth is defined can be related to the different values that we hold, and this creates differences in what people strive for in life. Read these posts below to learn about four different concepts of wealth and why they are important.

Wealth as Money

— “ —

Student **GenG** · 28 minutes ago

Hi! To me being wealthy means having the necessary means to live a comfortable life. Probably that means money, in practical terms. But I also think that it's important to share some of our wealth with others that are not in our same situation. I believe the concept of Dharma in Hinduism shaped my view of wealth. It means that everyone has a moral obligation to help others that are in need. This doesn't mean that a rich person cannot be religious. It all depends on how you use your money, and your individual actions.


 Show text version

Wealth as Health

— “ —

Student **GenG** · 3 hours ago

Hey! Wealth to me has a very strong connection with health. If you are healthy you can do and enjoy more things in life. I think we are blessed to live in this planet, so we should try to always strive to get better. I have heard many times the saying “a healthy mind in a healthy body” and I believe it's true, but this should also mean having good mental health, and having access to knowledge and experiences that can help you grow. So, to me wealth is having a good physical and mental health, and being able and curious to learn and experience new things.

 Show text version

Wealth as Freedom

— “ —

Student **GenG** · 28 minutes ago

Wealth is a very wide concept. When I think about it, I imagine that a wealthy person is someone who is free to do what they want. They are free to only spend their time doing what makes them happy. I don't know if that can always be the case, as for example, in order to do something that you truly enjoy you must be good at it, so that requires practice – which might not be that fun at the beginning – but ultimately you can decide what you want to do. It's about having different options, and not be forced to do boring or unpleasant things just to make enough money to survive. Money can help you emancipate, but on its own it's worthless.


 Show text version

Wealth as Relationships

— “ —

Student **GenG** · 5 hours ago

It's easy to say wealth is only about money, but I think wealth is also about relationships. It's about being in the position to make great friends, whom you can have fun with, and that can help you when you're in need. Having great people around you is important to give life a meaning. I do believe that true wealth is not measured in money or power, but in what we leave behind for the world, and for those we love. Reflecting on this made me think of that famous quote “happiness is only real when shared”, which I believe is very true.

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What is wealth?



What does wealth mean to you?

Think about the four concepts of wealth you read in the posts. Move the slider below to rate how much you believe each of these concepts are important markers of wealth in your life.

Wealth as Money



Wealth as Health



Wealth as Freedom



Wealth as Relationships



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Reflecting on wealth



What is your concept of wealth?

Reflect on your own ideas, beliefs and values of wealth. Write what wealth means to you in the box below and why this is important. Give an example from your own life or community.

Enter your thoughts here...

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Reflecting on wealth



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Enter your thoughts here...

You may have noticed that wealth is complex and that we can have multiple beliefs about what wealth looks like in our life at the same time! Our perspectives on wealth can also change over time. Explore the complexity of wealth in your life further by asking your family and friends about their concepts of wealth and what values shape their beliefs. Do you share the same beliefs?

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Systems for creating and distributing wealth



Transactions of wealth are based on shared practices that people must participate in to keep the system functioning. These systems can look differently across communities and cultures, but globalisation has gradually standardised ways of organising the interchange of goods, services, money and other exchanges of value. Watch this video to learn about the four essential types of economy that are most common in the world and how they influence the global system.

Types of Economic Systems

University Now/National University System - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xgwYRXt9VU>



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Systems for creating and distributing wealth



Which system best relates to your own concepts of wealth?

Think about the four types of economic structures mentioned in the previous video. Choose which system relates best to your own concepts of wealth.

Traditional – Based on culture and rituals, everyone participates for sustainability and relies on the community

☐

Command – Relies on government to make all economic decisions about creation and transactions of wealth and resources

☐

Market – Consumers determine how industries, wealth, and resources are created and shared

☐

Mixed – Limited government involvement to regulate transactions while applying free market principles

☐

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Different values, different systems



How does your own concept of wealth differ from some of these systems?

Practice challenging different systems of wealth and economy by choosing one of the sentence starters to help you express your perspective respectfully. Write your perspective below. These are some suggestions for how you can start your reflection:

- In my opinion...
- That is an interesting idea, I believe...
- Thank you for sharing, in my experience...
- I am interested to explore the differences, have you considered...

Enter your thoughts here...

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Different values, different systems



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Enter your thoughts here...

The creation and distribution of wealth is a process that requires different kinds of rules, interactions, and shared agreements among people. Dialogue is an important tool in helping communities to understand each other's values, needs, and ideas for making systems that can work for all.

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The Wealth Gap



Systems of economy and the transaction of wealth are important for a society's ability to grow and thrive, however, these systems are not without problems. With an unequal and inequitable system of wealth, large gaps form between those who have wealth and those who do not, thus creating scarcity and poverty. Read the data below to learn about the wealth gap that billions of people around the world suffer from every day.



- **The world's richest 1% have more than twice as much wealth as 6.9 billion people.**

Source: Oxfam International - <https://www.oxfam.org/en/5-shocking-facts-about-extreme-global-inequality-and-how-even-it>



- **Children show higher rates of *multidimensional poverty: half of multidimensionally poor people (644 million) are children under age 18. One in three children is poor compared with one in six adults.**

Source: The 2020 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), UNDP - <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-MPI> - *All population aggregates in this report use 2018 population data from UNDESA (2019), unless otherwise indicated.

(*Multidimensional Poverty is a variety of impact people living in poverty experience, including poor health, lack of education, threat of violence, access to food and clean water, and unsafe working conditions to name a few.)



- **The average income of the richest 10% of the population is about nine times that of the poorest 10%**

Source: OECD - <https://www.oecd.org/social/inequality.htm>



- **High levels of inequality of opportunity discourage skills accumulation, choke economic and social mobility, and human development and, consequently, depress economic growth.**

Source: United Nations - <https://www.un.org/en/un75/inequality-bridging-divide>

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The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

How does the wealth gap impact your community?

Strong Question

Weak Question

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The Wealth Gap



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How does the wealth gap impact your community?

Asking questions that cannot be answered with 'yes or no' help people to open up and share details about their experiences.

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The Wealth Gap



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To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

Don't you think poor people should just get a job?

Questions like these are not really questions – they are statements in disguise and are trying to seek agreement for an opinion.

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The Wealth Gap



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To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

What kinds of systems do you think the world needs to close the wealth gap?

Questions that invite others to share their ideas support exploring the topic and new perspectives.

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The Wealth Gap



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Isn't it true that wealthy people just don't care about everyone else?

These types of questions are inauthentic and make judgements about people based on mis-information or stereotypes.

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The Wealth Gap



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Has your family experienced the wealth gap and if so, how?

These kinds of questions do not make assumptions about people's experiences and prompt them to speak as individuals to share details about their life.

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The Wealth Gap



Is this question a strong or weak one?

To learn more about how the wealth gap exists in your peers' communities, be prepared to ask strong questions. Read each question as it appears and select the correct category.

What does wealth mean to you?

Questions that ask others to describe personal meaning help you to learn about each other and move the dialogue deeper.

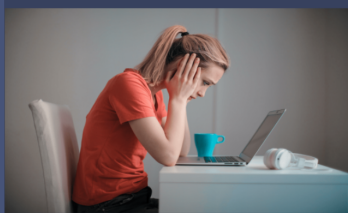
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Wealth and poverty post-pandemic



Along with initiatives like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #1: No Poverty, the world has made strides in reducing the wealth gap. In 2020, Covid-19 caused a great set-back to these efforts and widened the deep divides and issues that the wealth gap continues to create. Read these stories from around the globe to learn more about the impact of systems of wealth and poverty during the pandemic.



Unemployment

(Photo by [Andrea Piacquadio](#) from [Pexels](#))

Agatha lives with her mom and two younger brothers. Her mom lost her job at the local café when Covid-19 hit due to the lockdown. It has been hard for her mom to find different kinds of work since she has always worked in the restaurant industry.

The national government provides monthly income while her mom is out of work, but it is not enough for her family to afford the rental of their apartment, food, and health care; they barely got by before the pandemic. Agatha and her mom just don't know what to do to make the situation better.

[Show text version](#)

Vaccine access

(Photo by [Zen Chung](#) from [Pexels](#))

It has been a year since the pandemic started and Mia and her family have been struggling to get by without being able to attend the markets and sell the produce they grow from their farm. Mia is eager for her parents to get vaccinated, but they are not able to get a vaccine. Her country does not have the resources to create their own vaccine, and the cost of the vaccinations are very high.

The World Health Organization has a program for wealthy countries to provide vaccines to developing countries, but the amount they have received in her country is very low and she doesn't know when it will come to her area.

[Show text version](#)

Access to technology

(Photo: Photo by [COD Newsroom](#) from [Wikimedia](#))

Schools closed abruptly when Covid-19 hit Dominic's city. Teachers scrambled to prepare new lesson plans and his school attempted to set up an online environment for students to keep learning from home. Dominic does not have a laptop, so he must join with his mobile phone. Often, he must disable his video when connecting to the online classroom as the bandwidth available is not sufficient.

The school has asked the government for additional tablets to distribute to students and plans have been drafted to improve internet access in Dominic's area, but this has not been delivered on and it is unclear how long it will take to get these resources.

[Show text version](#)

Migrant conditions

(Photo: Photo by [Guilherme Cunha](#) from [Unsplash](#))

5 years ago, Joshua left his home to find a job in a richer country that allowed him to send some money back to his family, which was struggling financially. He would normally visit his family at least once a year. Covid-19 had a large impact on Joshua's employer's revenue, and he was put on furlough for a few months. When he came back, his working hours were cut in half as demand was not back to pre-pandemic levels.

Due to the lower salary, Joshua is not able to both send enough money home and afford a bus ticket to visit his family. Since he is not a citizen of the country he is living in, he is unable to receive support from the local government.

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Wealth and poverty post-pandemic



What actions would you take?

Reflect on the case studies. What actions would you take to reduce poverty and increase fairness? Write your reflection below.

Enter your thoughts here...

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Wealth and poverty post-pandemic



What actions would you take?

Reflect on the case studies. What actions would you take to reduce poverty and increase fairness? Write your reflection below.

Enter your thoughts here...

Wealth and poverty exist everywhere in the world and impact people's ability to live, sustain and thrive. Dialogue can support people and communities in coming together to understand each other's perspectives and experiences of wealth and poverty. By sharing our personal stories of impact and asking good questions, we can challenge and enrich our own views on wealth and poverty.

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