

Tech Tools for Teachers by Nik Peachey



Social Questionnaires Solving the problems of the world

Level: Pre-intermediate +

(can be adapted for different levels)

Age: Teenagers / Adults **Time needed:** Approx. 60 minutes

Aim: Students explore major problems in

global society and debate them through online questionnaires using

the web-based tool, Tricider

Skills: Speaking, writing, web skills

Materials: Internet access: Tricider video

screencast tutorial, downloaded from onestopenglish; Tricider printable instructions, downloaded

from onestopenglish; Ten

pre-prepared questionnaires made

using Tricider (optional)

Note: You can run this lesson in two ways:

get the students to decide the topics for each questionnaire (instructions as below), or come to the lesson with ten of your own pre-prepared questionnaires.

- Before the lesson, you should become familiar with the process of creating online questionnaires using the web-based tool, Tricider. We have made a special video screencast tutorial on how to use Tricider, which you can download from onestopenglish. Alternatively, you can download printable instructions to follow.
- 2 Put your students into pairs and ask them to think of ten of the most serious problems that the world faces today.
- Once the pairs of students have thought of ten ideas each, put them into larger groups of four to six. Ask each group to share and compare their lists and choose the ten that they think are the most important.

- 4 Elicit the ideas from the students and vote on the ten that the whole class thinks are the most serious. Make sure to keep a note of these.
- 5 Create a Tricider questionnaire for each of the problems, and prime each one with one or two of your own ideas for solutions and some pros and cons for each solution.
- Give your students the links to the questionnaires and ask them to suggest solutions and some pros and cons for each solution. You could use this questionnaire as an example in class to demonstrate what they should do: http://tricider.com/brainstorming/KZfx.
- Get the students to work on the questionnaires for homework and try to add as much to them as they can (their names should appear next to their contributions, so you will be able to see who has done the work).
- 8 In the next lesson, get the students to look at the problems again and discuss which of the solutions they think would be most effective. Once they have had a chance to discuss the solutions in pairs/groups, they can add their votes to the solutions they like best.
- 9 With higher levels you could follow this up with a writing activity. Let the students choose one of the problems and use the information to write a short essay about the problem and the pros and cons of the various solutions.

