

Quest for the Good Life

Name _____

Date _____

In the left-hand column, list the basic needs of every American. These are the items that are absolutely essential for life plus some special things that are necessary for life in our society.

In the right-hand column, list the things you use and want to maintain your lifestyle: color-TV; hot water, McDonald's hamburgers, etc. Unless you are "totally deprived" or a cloistered monk, the column should be full. Next to each item, name some of the resources or products necessary to produce these things: oil, electricity, iron, pesticides, grain, water, etc.

Basic Needs	Wants for My Lifestyle
1. _____	TV (metal, oil, electricity, glass)
2. _____	Fast hamburgers (grain, pesticide, fertilizer, oil)
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. shelter (dictated by climate)	_____
7. clothing (society demands it)	_____
8. medicines (some required by law)	_____
9. _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Class Discussion

Jot down notes as each item is discussed. You will turn your paper in at the end of class.

1. Cross off 3 of the items on the right so that people who lack the basic necessities on the left side can have them.
2. Cross off 3 more items, since continued world population growth and development in other countries will (could) mean giving up such levels of consumption.
3. How many more items, if any, are you willing to cross off your list to sustain population growth and/or increased consumption by others in the U.S. and the rest of the world?

Note: As demand grows for a decreasing supply of resources, prices shoot up and we are literally forced to give up some of the things we want for ourselves.

4. What values, if any, are in conflict as you make your choices?

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5. Is there more to living the "good life" than having material things? _____. List some of your non-material desires.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

6. Can one live the good life without consuming large quantities of energy and mineral resources. Justify your answer.

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7. Can large numbers of people continue to live the "good life" if population and consumption continue to grow?

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8. Now that we have talked about them for awhile, it's time to clarify a couple basic questions:

a. What is the "Good Life"? _____

b. How do you achieve it? _____