

School Age Child Global Lesson Plan: National Assessments

Grade 12

Rationale : This is a class for students who want to be in the education field. We discuss the past, as well as the possible future, of education in this country. We discuss Common Core and the students research pros and cons to learn more and form their own opinion. This lesson could be used after they have learned about CCSS.

Intro: Give students a very brief overview of the PISA International test given to students and what the test is supposed to be measuring. Make some comparisons between PISA and CCSS assessments.

Procedure: Show the video from pbs.org on the interview with Amanda Ripley about her book *The Smartest Kids in the World*: [pbs.org video](https://www.pbs.org/video/2014-07-15-the-smartest-kids-in-the-world/) . Alternative: direct students to the accompanying article to read and then watch the video individually on laptops.

After the video, have students write a reflection on their own school experience. Address the factors Ms. Ripley talked about: the emphasis on sports and technology, not enough rigor, not enough teacher training, and the lack of critical thinking opportunities, as well as anything else they want to add. Then add their thoughts on whether they believe the CCSS will help the U.S. bring up test scores on the PISA assessment, with reasons.

Options:

Assign an in-depth research project on schools in other countries such as hours, uniforms, requirements, years of school, homework, etc. Debates on cellphones in school, technology use in school, standardized tests, entrance/exit exams, longer school year, etc that would require research on policies and statistics from at least one other country.

Assessment: Discussion and reflection

Resources:

[PBS article and video](#)

[School Years Around the World](#)

[Infographic](#)