



## Education unlocks big change

**The research questions below can help teachers to formulate assignments and also support students with other types of project work, both inside and outside the classroom.**

- How is education, and early childhood education in particular, beneficial to a child's development?
- How can education help with economic recovery?
- What is the status of funding for education?
- Why should a country make investment in education a priority?
- What is the relationship between poverty and access to quality education?
- What are the long-term consequences of not investing in education?
- How are intergovernmental organisations engaging in education?
- How can education help to foster positive civic engagement and participation?
- What role should the developed world play in global education?
- How can technology accelerate access to education?
- What are the different approaches being taken with the provision and financing of education throughout the world?
- What is the business case for investing in education?
- What innovative financing mechanisms exist for businesses to engage in their support of education?
- Why is investing in teachers important?
- Why should more developed countries invest in education in other countries?
- What is the status of education throughout the different regions of the world?
- How has technology been used successfully to provide quality education?
- Can technology help to democratise education?
- What is the relationship between racial inequality and education?
- How can education reduce and address racism?

**These clear topic statements help students to express their opinion and can form the basis of their argument in essay responses or other projects.**

### Early childhood

- Early childhood education is the foundation for a child's growth and developmental potential, alongside other crucial early years investments.
- Every dollar invested in early childhood education can yield a return as high as US\$17 for the most disadvantaged children.
- Improving the effectiveness of early childhood education boosts social mobility.



## Social change

- When anti-racist pedagogies are coupled with other education policies, including redistributions of inequitable spending, education can be a force for positive change.
- Several strategies, including intergroup dialogue pedagogies, supporting and training teachers who reflect the diversity of the student population, and addressing implicit bias, can improve social cohesion and learning outcomes.
- Children taught in their native language, and with culturally relevant materials, are more likely to stay in school and achieve better results.
- Education is a key factor in deterring corruption.
- Good teachers are the backbone of education systems and on the frontlines of social change.
- Well-trained and supported teachers are highly effective in positively influencing children – both academically and socially.
- Quality and inclusive education is the foundation for peaceful societies.
- Education systems have the potential to engage in social transformation as agents of change.
- Education greatly reduces inequality.
- Education lifts families, communities and countries out of poverty.
- Securing secondary education for all would bring more than half of the world out of extreme poverty.
- Education promotes tolerance – of religion, race, sexual orientation and immigrants.
- Education is a human right.
- Education plays a fundamental role in sustaining peace and reconciliation following conflict.
- Education unlocks knowledge of human rights and enables full participation in economic, social, cultural, civic and political life.
- When young people are provided education and opportunity, they are less likely to enter the criminal justice system.
- Social mobility creates more peaceful and equal societies.
- Education is the foundation to unlocking additional company priorities, including climate, public health, inclusion, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.
- Education has the power to promote a more equal and just society.
- Education has a tremendous power to equalise the playing field early in life and helps reduce inequalities between income groups and for minority populations.
- Education can create more equitable societies, if investments provide opportunities to the poorest and most marginalised.
- Integrated schools can play a key role in building relationships across political, religious and ethnic divides.

## Development

- Education underpins all of the Sustainable Development Goals and is a precursor to unlocking any development agenda.
- Investment in education and opportunity is vital to Africa's growth and future development.
- Education is key to unlocking the unprecedented cross-sectoral gains possible throughout the sub-Saharan region, raising millions out of poverty and building the foundation for stable, sustained and inclusive development.
- Development strategies must include a clear and sharp focus on supporting quality education systems to create sustainable change in any other sector
- Basic classroom infrastructure such as lighting and air conditioning can make the difference between quality learning and marginalisation.



## Business and economy

- There is a positive association between education and GDP per capita.
- Budget cuts to education systems stand to impact racial and ethnic minorities the most.
- Investing in early childhood education generates impressive economic returns.
- Strong education systems promote growth, economic development and skills training, helping a country rebound more quickly from a pandemic.
- Studies show that during an economic recovery investing in quality education improves the likelihood of recovery, growth and labour market participation.
- Education is smart for society, and smart for business.
- Education drives future business.
- The business community can bring all of its assets to support education, including volunteering, expertise, goods and services, supply chains, corporate social responsibility, ESG investment, philanthropy, human resources policies, and more.
- Innovative partnerships, financing mechanisms and new vehicles for business investment in social sectors are rapidly emerging and increasingly recognised channels for successful engagement in education.

## Technology

- Investing in inclusive digital access – and getting every school and student equipped to be online – will dramatically expand educational opportunities.
- Education that emphasises skills for a rapidly transforming world – curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, social-emotional skills, digital literacy, and systems analysis – will be of particular value in the workforce.
- Advancements in technology make it possible to learn in remote corners of the globe without physically going to school.