

School of the Future

Describe the ISSUES (facts, problems, and opportunities) in the case. Look for underlying issues as well as obvious problems the characters face.

- What social, environmental, and academic issues prompted the building the School of the Future?
- What are some of the potential problems associated with implementing a project-based curriculum?
- What opportunities is the school providing for both the students and the community?
- What dilemmas may the administrators and faculty face as their student population grows?

Consider the PERSPECTIVE of each character or group presented in the case. What is their unique take on the issues? What informs their point-of-view? What insight do you gain into issues by considering others' opinions?

- Describe the teacher perspectives on both their students and on working at the School of the Future?
- What non-academic benefits might students enjoy at the School of the Future? What is their value?
- How did the students' perspectives about themselves change during their first year? How does this match the mission of the school?
- In what ways do community perspectives permeate school climate?
- What seems to be the media perspective on the school?

What KNOWLEDGE might inform how to address issues in the case? Which sources of knowledge might you consider (professional, experiential, empirical)? What more would you like to know before proposing any actions or next steps?

- What types of knowledge do administrators and faculty think are important for the students to know? What knowledge do the students seem to be learning?
- What knowledge from the case would be particularly useful for other schools? What additional knowledge might they need to be able to effectively implement a similar model?
- What knowledge did Microsoft contribute to the project?
- What is Project-Based Learning?

What ACTIONS might you recommend characters in the case take to address issues? What possible next steps might occur?

- What actions did the school take to create a culture of learning?
- One goal of the school is to provide a model for other schools. What actions taken by the school would be particularly useful to your own school situation?
- What particular actions did the students have to take in order to be successful at

their new school?

What are the CONSEQUENCES of proposed actions? What might happen, short- and long-term, intentionally and unintentionally, of following your suggestions? What else might you consider as possible results of suggested actions?

- What are the potential consequences for the school of losing their principal after the first year?
- What might be the consequences for other schools in the Philadelphia school district now that the School of the Future is up and running?
- What might be some of the consequences for the students at the school? And, what might be the consequences for their families as well?
- Identify a few universal consequences for schools undergoing large-scale reform.