Introductory Note:

United Nations Human Development Office, created in 1990, studies quality of life in countries around the world. This organization and other international aid bodies refer to *human development* as a way of assessing global quality of life. Human development is not to be confused with industrial or technological development.

It is measured by the United Nations using a specific set of factors:
1) life expectancy at birth
2) education and adult literacy
3) income calculated in terms of "purchasing power," or how much you can buy with the money you make in that country

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What Is Human Development?

The basic purpose of development is to enlarge people's choices. In principle, these choices can be infinite and can change over time. People often value achievements that do not show up at all, or not immediately, in income or growth figures: greater access to knowledge, better nutrition and health services, more secure livelihoods, security against crime and physical violence, satisfying leisure hours, political and cultural freedoms and sense of participation in community activities. The objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives.
~ Mahbub ul Haq

United Nations, Human Development Report 2003, What Is Human Development?
<http://hdr.undp.org/hd/default.cfm>

What Is Poverty?

Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not being able to go to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action -- for the poor and the wealthy alike -- a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities.

World Bank Group, Poverty Net, Understanding Poverty
<www.worldbank.org/poverty/mission/up1.htm>

In your group, review the main points on the preceding page, using the guiding questions below. Have one student record all your answers in point form. Then, as a group, write your own definition of the expression quality of life*. Be sure the definition is in your own words, and that it shows "global-mindedness."*

1. Guiding questions for Introductory Note:
- What does the UN mean by *human development*?
- How does the UN decide which countries have a healthy level of human development?
- Do you all agree that this is a good way to tell if a country has a good quality of life?
- Do you think there are other important factors?

2. Guiding questions for *What is Human Development?*
- Underline the key words in this paragraph (nouns).
- In your own words and using simple, clear terms, list in point form all the factors that are involved in *human development*.
- In your own words, state the overall purpose or goal of *human development*.

3. Guiding Questions for *What Is Poverty?*
- List all the aspects of life that are negatively affected by poverty.
- In your own words, state the conclusion of this section.

4. Using your notes, underline all the words that your group agrees are the most important factors in a good quality of life. Then, place these words in order from the most important to the least important. Use this list to write your own definition of quality of life.

Our group agrees that global quality of life is…

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Our group believes that the most important thing people can do to help improve global quality of life is…

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