



UNIVERSAL THEMES AND GENERALIZATIONS

THEMES

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|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Change | 5. Patterns | 9. Relationships |
| 2. Conflict | 6. Order vs Chaos | 10. Systems |
| 3. Exploration | 7. Power | 11. Adaptation |
| 4. Force or Influence | 8. Structure | |

THEMES AND GENERALIZATIONS

Generalizations are statements that are generally true or applicable to multiple situations. They transcend time, place, and culture. Generalizations facilitate inquiry by acting as a stimulus for students to gather evidence with which to prove the statement.

1. Change

- Change generates additional change
- Change can be either positive or negative
- Change is inevitable
- Change is necessary for growth
- Change can be evolutionary or revolutionary

2. Conflict

- Conflict is composed of opposing forces
- Conflict creates change.
- Conflict may be natural or human-made
- Conflict can be helpful or harmful.
- Conflict may be intentional or unintentional
- Conflict may allow for synthesis and change

3. Exploration

- Exploration requires recognizing purpose and responding to it
- Exploration confronts "the unknown"
- Exploration may result in "new findings" or the confirmation of "old findings"

4. Force

- Force attracts, hold or repels
- Force influences or changes
- Force and inertia are co-dependent
- Force may be countered with equal or greater force

5. Patterns

- Patterns have segments that are repeated
- Patterns allow for prediction
- Patterns can be ordered internally or externally
- Patterns are enablers

6. Order vs Chaos

- Order may be natural or constructed
- Order has a purpose
- Order may allow for prediction
- Order is a form of communication
- Order may have repeated patterns
- Order and chaos are reciprocals
- Order leads to chaos and chaos leads to order

7. Power

- Power is the ability to influence
- Power may be used or abused
- Power is always present in some form
- Power may take many forms (chemical, electrical, political, mechanical)
- Power may be natural or constructed

8. Structure

- Structure have parts that interrelate
- Parts of structures support and are supported by other parts
- Smaller structures may be combined to form larger structures
- A structure is no stronger than its weakest component parts

9. Relationships

- Everything is related in some way
- All relationships are purposeful
- Relationships change over time
- Relationships lead to new relationships

10. Systems

- Systems have parts that work to complete a task
- Systems are composed of sub-systems
- Part of systems are interdependent upon one another and form symbiotic relationships
- A system may be influenced by other systems
- Systems interact
- Systems follow rules

11. Adaptation

- Adaptation occurs over time
- Adaptation can be planned or spontaneous
- Adaptation can be positive or negative
- Adaptation is necessary for growth
- Adaptation is necessary for survival
- Adaptation leads to change

A Few Basic Generalizations:

- _____ are reciprocal and interdependent.
- _____ is inevitable.
- _____ can be natural or artificial.
- There are _____ within _____.
- _____ can be positive or negative.
- _____ have/has structure and functions.
- _____ can be chosen or imposed.