



## Lesson Plan: High School/College

**VISIONQUILT**  
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These activities can be adapted to fit into one class or a one to two week unit.

**Common Core State Standards and related content topics:** Health, Public Health, Mental Health, Safety, Trauma, Community, Criminal Justice, the U.S. Constitution, U.S. Legislation, Current Events

### Objectives

Students will:

- Engage in the topic of gun violence through discussion, readings and video
- Understand and summarize main ideas
- Analyze a cartoon about the issue of gun violence
- Share what they have learned about the pros and cons of gun safety regulations by creating posters
- Explore the Vision Quilt website and the power of art to create social change
- Write about three Vision Quilt panels and their impact on the viewer
- Research and interpret statistics about gun violence
- Research and share actions people are taking to prevent gun violence. Students may also share how gun violence has affected them personally and the actions they are taking, or would like to take, to prevent gun violence.
- Reflect on the type of Vision Quilt panel they would like to make
- Design and create a Vision Quilt panel

### Setting the Stage: America's Gun Debate - Envisioning a Safer Future

Turn to a partner and discuss:

- Do you own a gun? Do people in your family have guns? Why or why not?
- What do you know about the current debate about guns in the U.S.?
- What do you think is the difference between the phrases “gun control” and “gun safety”?
- Do you think there is common ground among gun owners and those that do not own guns? If so, what is it?

### Class discussion:

Debrief and talk about the recent shootings in the U.S. Discuss other questions and concerns regarding the gun debate as they arise.

Preview the article, “The Gun Debate”, in the New York Times, upfront magazine: [http://upfront.scholastic.com/issues/02\\_08\\_16/](http://upfront.scholastic.com/issues/02_08_16/)

Discuss pictures, captions, and headings:

- How does the picture of the man and woman with guns at the counter make you feel?
- What do you think about the cartoon of the “Ending Gun Violence” puzzle?
- What stands out for you as you look at the statistics on the “Gun Ownership by State” map?

In groups:

- Watch the video on the Second Amendment at [www.upfrontmagazine.com](http://www.upfrontmagazine.com)
- Discuss with your group and summarize its main points in one paragraph

- Read the gun debate article
- Highlight main ideas under each heading
- Using the highlighted information, draw a chart of the arguments for and against gun safety regulations

Each group presents posters. Debrief as a class.

### **Engaging with the Project:**

Explore the Vision Quilt website: <http://www.visionquilt.org>

Discuss these questions in small groups and then volunteers share with the class:

- What is your impression of the website?
- What is the message of Vision Quilt?
- What do you think about the power of art to affect social change?

Choose three panels to write about:

- Describe the panels.
- How do they make you feel?
- What is their message?

### **Delving Deeper:**

Research statistics about gun violence in our country and in your area. Write down 6-10 facts and be prepared to present them to the class. You may also share how gun violence has affected you personally.

Research the actions people are taking to reduce gun violence in our country and in your area. Choose three that you think are having, or could have, the most effect. Discuss how these actions could affect you personally. Be prepared to present to the class.

Read the “15 Things You Can Do” section of the Vision Quilt website. Choose one you are already doing or would like to do.

### **Reflection:**

In a group, discuss what type of panel you would make.

- What do you want to say? What would the message be?
- How would you design it?
- Sketch a design or several designs. Include pictures and/or words.

### **Next Steps:**

Spend one or two class sessions designing and making vision quilt panels, using the Vision Quilt kit instructions and recommended materials.