

Sample Integrative Process Worksheet

Step One:

Complex Phenomenon: Poor Oral Health in Latin America

- *Why is it complex?* The phenomenon is complex because it would take more than a truck-load of toothbrushes to solve the problem.
- *Why are you interested in this phenomenon/problem?* This problem interests me because of my concern for oral health in general.
- *What future relevance does studying this problem have for me?* I plan on becoming a Spanish-speaking dentist and there might be a lot that I could do to help.

Step Two:

How can the oral health of Latin Americans be improved?

Step Three:

Relevant Disciplines:

- Dentistry
 - General
 - Periodontal
 - Surgical

- Public health
- Oral pathology
- Medicine
- Government
- Law
- International Affairs
- Business
- Education
- Communications
- Languages
- History
- Sociology
- Psychology

Steps Four and Five:

Discipline	Disciplinary Perspective
Dentistry	Dentistry is concerned with the oral health of the individual, the community and the world. There are sub-disciplines which are more concerned with large spread oral diseases such as oral pathology and periodontal dentistry.
Medicine	Oral health may be only part of a bigger health problem. Certain medical specialties such as epidemiology and virology may be most suitable to handle this problem.
Government	The problem exists in many different countries each with their own distinct government.
Law	Along with each government, all countries abide by different laws. These must be taken into consideration when attempting to solve this problem.

International Affairs	It may be difficult for foreigners to help in some countries. A form of diplomacy may be needed to smooth things over.
Business	Large corporations may be needed to sponsor or support any effort to correct the problem. Allowing certain dental products to be sold in underserved locations or reducing prices of products already being sold could help.
Education	The problem may be preventable for future generations if proper oral health education becomes a priority.
Communications	Organizing a relief effort requires excellent communications skills.
Languages	Latin America speaks several different languages. Spanish and Portuguese are the most prominent. However, there are many Indians who speak their native tongue.
History	Knowing the past gives a deeper understanding of current events and helps prevent future mistakes.
Sociology	The Latin American culture may give clues to how the problem may be addressed.
Psychology	This field of study is relevant to almost every major problem in the world. What is going on inside their heads? If we only knew.

Step Six:

Dentistry and Medicine are probably the most important disciplines to address this interdisciplinary problem. Those who have been trained in those areas are probably educated in many of the other disciplines such as communications, history, and

psychology. A firm grasp of the languages would be very important but a translator could do the job. Government, law and international affairs could all be lumped together as could education, communications, languages, history, sociology, and psychology. Business stands alone but could be the means of supporting any attempted efforts.

Step Seven:

Oral health in Latin America can be improved by a massive campaign to reach out to the uneducated and underprivileged. Government leaders would have to cooperate with volunteer dentists and doctors in a coordinated effort. Organizations would join forces with the support of large corporations and many but not all could be helped. With proper education it can be prevented altogether in future generations.

Step Eight:

The solution stated in Step Seven sounds good but may be difficult to undertake. While it is true that the relief effort is underway on a small scale, it should be taken to a higher level. It may need the help of specialists in organization and transportation as well as other disciplines that have not been mentioned. These insights are limited to one person's point of view and should be reviewed and added to by many other people.