

Panel Discussion

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The following is a general summary of my talking point in the last session of the seminar:

I discussed the value of having educators at the seminar and what I had learned and would be able to take back to the classroom. I encouraged the organizers to include educators again at next year's seminar. The experience and benefits of being part of the high value discussions could only result from inclusion in the seminar.

I discussed the multiple perspectives shared by the participants as evidenced by the different naming issues and disputes which will be a great discussion topic for high school students in a geography class. I emphasized that geography as a discipline encourages and promotes the idea of multiple perspective which helps create an atmosphere of toleration for world citizen to better understand other culture's issues and traditions. I suggested that creating a TedTalk specifically for the *East Sea* naming dispute would be a great resource for teachers and another avenue for promoting the cultural traditions and geopolitical issues of this unresolved conflict. More maps for the classroom that illustrate the many naming disputes that currently play a part in global interactions by various countries. I also suggested that a set of actual case studies for creating classroom activities focused on each unit in the Advanced Placement Human Geography course would be most useful in making students aware of and knowledge about the relationships between countries. Participants seemed to agree that students had a right to be exposed to and informed about global issues relevant to each county.

From an educator's perspective, I discussed the idea that maps don't really serve the same purpose today as they did twenty or thirty years ago. Today interactive maps

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and GIS applications allow maps to be used as tools for analysis in looking at environmental issues, social issues and economic and political issues such as agriculture, human rights, and development. There is a map for every conceivable topic today created from a specific data set. This is vastly different from flat paper maps that show ownership of land, boundaries and names and physical features. Consequently, naming issues that are critical at the local level may not be so important at the global scale like they once were in the past.