Thinking Outside of the Box about Poverty

This is a continuation of what we started in class on Thursday. Since it stresses new ways of thinking, it should challenge your thinking in unexpected ways. So … don’t freak out … think of this as an opportunity to engage in innovative thinking. Also, it asks you to do a little research. Again, don’t freak out … this is a way for you to experience how easy it is for you to access the information that you need through a Google search.

Resources from PolyLearn:
View: Cowen, Are the Poor Overwhelmed (3:04 minutes)
View: Amartya Sen Capabilities (4:35 minutes)
View: J. Jackley Money, Poverty and Love (18 min)
Read: Altman, We Can End Poverty So Why Don't We?
View: M. Gladwell, Squandering Human Potential (11:31 minutes)
View: Muhammad Yunus, Micro-finance (23:47 minutes)
View: Adichie, The Danger of a Single Story (18:49 minutes)

Thursday Recap:
• We summarized information by identifying 3-5 key points or takeaways from each of the readings/videos under this topic. For example, for Jackley, we identified microfinance, stories, self-less business model, future orientation, and the idea of partnerships.
• We then looked for the overlap and drew connections between two articles/videos that seemed most related to each other like Jackley/Yunus, Gladwell/Sen, and Jackley/Adichie, to name a few.
• We then started to connect or layer in a third article/video that at first glance seemed unrelated. For example, we related Yunus to Gladwell/Sen because his Bonzai example fits in with limiting or constraining potential and we related Sen to Yunus/Jackley on the grounds that resources to entrepreneurs (broadly defined) grows their talent and increases capabilities.

Independent Journal Assignment:
1. As a starting point, choose one set of resources that we paired off in class on Thursday (or create a new set). For example, you may choose Yunus/Jackley, Jackley/Adichie, Gladwell/Sen, etc.
2. Connect: Mind Map all of the linkages/connections between these resources. You can use the connections made in class if they are consistent with your thinking but also add to them. The benefit of a visual mind map is that it allows you to include connections that you might not be able to initially articulate in words. This will be hand-drawn in your journal and be its own journal entry.
3. Connect: Once these initial linkages are made, layer in a third resource like we did in class. This resource will likely not have the same extensive overlap as the other two so it might be more challenging to integrate. This just requires that you give it more thought. (I am confident that if I asked you to connect the weather to microfinance, that you would be able to do it.)
4. Explain: In a new journal entry, follow up the mind map with more detailed explanations of the connections. For example, Jackley and Yunus are connected because they both discuss micro-finance but now you need to provide details about that connection. Maybe compare Jackley's initial pre-Kiva experiment in Uganda and Kenya with one of Yunus' experiments in Bangladesh. (You only need rely on the original resources.) Be sure to also provide more detailed explanation of the connections with the third resource.

5. Search and Locate: Once you have completed 1-4, do a Google search and locate 3-4 articles or videos that are related to your discussion. The resources may be by the same authors/presenters but branch out a bit. For example, if you choose Yunus, maybe explore his collaboration with Danone so that you would learn a bit more about micro financing in practice.

6. Cite: On a separate page in your journal, include citations for all 3-4 new resources along with citations of your original resources from PolyLearn so that you have a bibliography of 6-7 sources.

7. Read/View: Finally, read/view one of your new resources and include a summary of it in your journal with the citation on top of the summary.

8. Recap: Items/Entries for Journals:
   - Mind Map
   - Explanations
   - Additional Resources with citation
   - Summary of one of the resources