

U.S. politics and society – In Rollensimulationen wahlkampfrelevante Themen diskutieren I (S II)

Sabine Schmitz, Leverkusen



Im November 2020 wird in den USA der neue Präsident gewählt, der auch der alte sein könnte. In den Vorwahlen bringen sich seit Anfang des Jahres verschiedene Bewerber der demokratischen Partei in Stellung. Zu den Themen, die die Amerikaner umtreiben, und die von ihnen diskutiert werden, gehören die „opioid crisis“ und das Verhältnis der verschiedenen Ethnien untereinander, insbesondere das Verhältnis der Weißen zu den Afro-Amerikanern. Mithilfe eines Positionspapiers und einer Rollensimulation sollen sich die Schülerinnen und Schüler mit den verschiedenen Positionen auseinandersetzen. – Diese Einheit bildet den ersten Teil einer 2-teiligen Materialserie.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Klassenstufe: 10/11/12 (G8) bzw. 11–13 (G9)

Dauer: 6 Unterrichtsstunden

Kompetenzen:

1. Leseverstehen: Rollenkarten/Positionspapiere lesen;
2. Sprechen: an Gesprächen teilnehmen; 3. Interkulturelle Kompetenz: Werte, Haltungen und Einstellungen des zielsprachigen Landes erkennen und unter Berücksichtigung des fremdkulturellen Hintergrundes einordnen

Thematische Bereiche: USA, aktuelle gesellschaftliche Probleme

Material: Texte, Rollenkarten

Auf einen Blick

1. Stunde

Thema: What is the opioid crisis in the USA?

M 1 **What is the opioid crisis?** / Erstellen eines Tafelbildes aus den Informationen der Situationskarte und Klären offener Fragen

M 2 **Opioid crisis – different positions: Task sheet** / Lesen der Arbeitsaufträge zur Rollensimulation und Klären von Verständnisfragen

Benötigt: Tafel bzw. OH-Projektor und Folie oder Dokumentenkamera/Beamer

2./3. Stunde

Thema: Opioid crisis – different positions

M 2 **Opioid crisis – different positions: Task sheet** / Aufgeben zur Arbeit mit *input sheets* und *role cards*: Lesen des Textinputs und Ausfüllen der Rollenkarte (Position, Argumente), Vergleichen und Verstärken der Argumente in der Gruppe und Verfassen eines *opening statements* für die Diskussion

M 3 **Opioid crisis: Viewing task** / Beobachtungsaufträge für die Diskussion: Notieren der Argumente und Evaluation (Verbrauch von *useful phrases*, Überzeugungskraft)

ZM 1 **Opioid crisis: Foundational** / Rollenschilder zum Ausschneiden und Anstecken

M 4–M 7 **Opioid crisis: Input sheets** / Textblätter für den vier Rollen für die Diskussion

ZM 2 **Opioid crisis: Input sheets with annotations** / Textblätter mit Vokabelangaben

M 8 **Opioid crisis: Role card sheet** / Vorlage zum Ausfüllen (Position, Argumente)

ZM 3 **Useful phrases for debates** / Sprachhilfen für die Durchführung der Diskussion

Benötigt: Befestigungsmaterial für die Rollenschilder

Redemittel (ZM 3) ggf. auf Folie bzw. in der digitalen Fassung zur Projektion

4. Stunde

Thema: Opioid crisis – evaluation of the debate

M 3 **Opioid crisis: Listening/viewing tasks** / Kriterienbasierte Evaluation der Diskussion/Argumente anhand der Beobachtungsaufträge und Schülernotizen

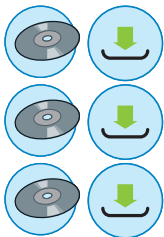
Homework Write a comment on the question "Should the Sackler family be held accountable for the opioid crisis?".

Benötigt: Tafel bzw. OH-Projektor und Folie oder Dokumentenkamera/Beamer

5./6. Stunde

Thema: On race relations – What is racism? Who is racist?

M 9 **Position paper: On race relations in the USA** / Lesen des Positionspapiers, Beantworten von Fragen und Diskussion im Plenum



What is the opioid crisis?

M 1

Tasks

1. Read the text.
2. Use three different markers. Mark the information regarding the victims of the opioid crisis. Then mark the information regarding examples of patients OxyContin was prescribed to. Then mark the information regarding the Sackler family and their former company.
3. Compare your findings with your partner's.

The situation:

America has a problem. The prescription opioid epidemic has resulted in nearly 100,000 deaths from 2006 to 2012. According to the Center for Disease Control, 46 people die every day from an opioid overdose. An addiction does not develop overnight and often starts very innocently. You may have an accident which results in a painful injury. You then see a doctor who gives you a prescription for 40 pills of OxyContin, a brand name of Oxycodone, an opioid medication manufactured by a company called Purdue Pharma. This doctor does not issue a warning that those pills are addictive. He should, but he does not. Or you may have a pedicure that results in an infected toe. Because you want to go on vacation the next day, you see a doctor. You ask for a prescription of antibiotics so that you will not run into major inconveniences when vacationing. The doctor prescribes the antibiotics but also offers to prescribe OxyContin, something you have not asked for and something that is also not necessary, as, on its own website, OxyContin is described as “indicated for the management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment”.

Whereas it is certainly difficult to name the main reason for the opioid addiction epidemic in the USA, one name always pops up in the discussion: the Sackler family. The Sacklers owned Purdue Pharma (now bankrupt), the maker of OxyContin. The lawsuits against the Stamford, Connecticut-based company paint it as a particular villain in the crisis. They say the company's aggressive marketing of opioids downplayed addiction risks, even though only a small percentage of the opioids sold in the USA were its products. It is not only the company that is being sued, but also the Sackler family itself, which is very wealthy. Purdue Pharma filed for bankruptcy in 2019, succumbing to pressure from more than 2,600 lawsuits.

Opioid crisis: Input sheet 1

M 4



Should the Sackler family be held accountable for the opioid crisis?

You are a lawyer. Your answer is "no".

Finding the real reasons for the opioid epidemic in the USA is very complicated and putting the blame on the Sackler family is an easy way out. First of all, the Sackler-owned company Purdue Pharma is by far not the only company and not even the largest company to manufacture opioid painkillers. As of 2020, ten companies that either manufacture or distribute Oxycodone are being sued in federal court in Cleveland by cities, towns and counties alleging that they conspired to flood the nation with opioids. 5
Aforementioned companies have already paid more than 1 billion dollars in fines to the government and hundreds of millions more to settle state lawsuits. Purdue Pharma was ranked only fourth among manufacturers with holding only about 7 percent of the market shares. On the other hand, just three companies manufactured 88 percent of the opioids – and Purdue Pharma is not one of them. How can a company that holds 7 percent of the market be responsible for the opioid crisis? If anything, all the manufacturers should be held accountable for the crisis, not just Purdue Pharma or the Sackler family.

And even the assumption of holding all the companies responsible remains a question that needs to be debated. Some people claim that doctors who prescribe the pills are to blame as well as the patients themselves, not the manufacturers at all. Doctors prescribe Oxycodone whenever they think it is necessary. Nobody forces them to do so. Some doctors are too careless about prescribing the pills. They could simply refill opioid prescriptions by phone. The doctors also do not inform their patients about the side effects which is their duty. Thus, they are the ones who should take responsibility for the crises.

There is more evidence that doctors are at the center of the problem, but there is a solution to this problem, too. Some states have implemented so-called tripartite programs for the prescriptions of opioids. Tripartites required doctors to use a special type of pad to prescribe controlled substances and they had to provide a copy of the prescription to a state monitoring agency. Because doctors considered these forms to be a hassle to use, they did not prescribe the drugs that required the use of tripartites. As a result, opioids are prescribed less in the states that make doctors use tripartites, and that is a fact. Hence, there is a potential policy solution for the crisis and this is it. In addition, the health care system in the country is also to blame. People cannot get access to universal health care. If they were in pain, they do not have access to, for example, physical therapy which in many cases would be a much more adequate measure for many ailments. If there were universal and affordable health care in the United States, there would be no need to prescribe painkillers and people would not demand it. Right now, they simply are not given it. The fact that there is no universal health care is a political problem and not a problem that the Sackler family is responsible for.

Found on: **Ham, Scott/Horwitz, Sari/Rich, Steven:** 76 billion opioid pills: Newly released federal Data unmask the epidemic. *Washington Post*, 16/07/19; found at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/76-billion-opioid-pills-newly-released-federal-data-unmasks-the-epidemic/2019/07/16/5f29fd62-a73e-11e9-86dd-d7f0e60391e9_story.html.

Opioid crisis: Role card sheet

M 8

Should the Sackler family be held accountable for the opioid crisis?

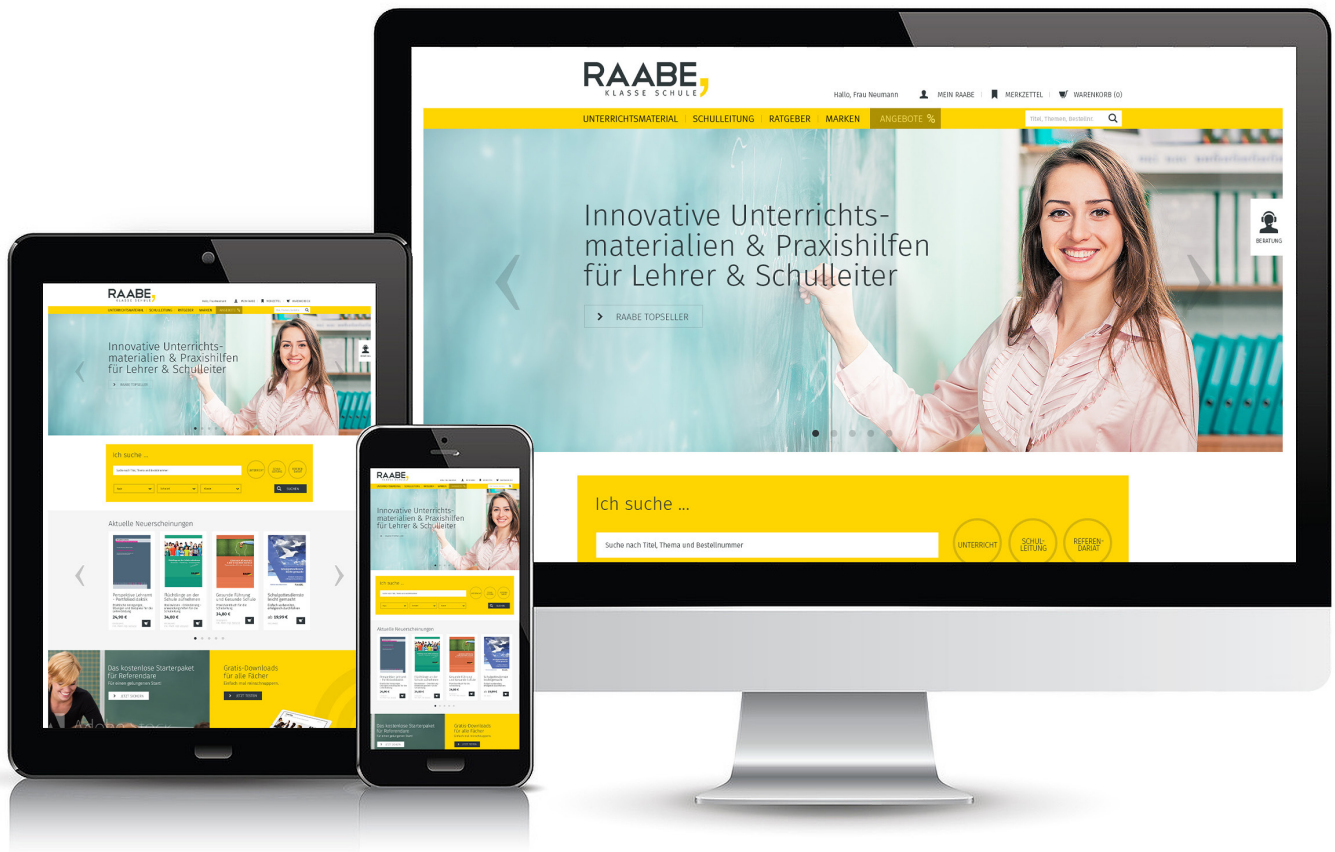
Your answer is:

Your statement:

Your arguments:

Useful phrases:

Der RAABE Webshop: Schnell, übersichtlich, sicher!



Wir bieten Ihnen:



Schnelle und intuitive Produktsuche



Übersichtliches Kundenkonto



Komfortable Nutzung über
Computer, Tablet und Smartphone



Höhere Sicherheit durch
SSL-Verschlüsselung

Mehr unter: www.raabe.de