UNIVERSAL THEMES AND GENERALIZATIONS

THEMES

1. Change
   - Change generates additional change
   - Change can be either positive or negative
   - Change is inevitable
   - Change is necessary for growth
   - Change can be evolutionary or revolutionary

2. Conflict
   - Conflict is composed of opposing forces
   - Conflict creates change.
   - Conflict may be natural or human-made
   - Conflict can be helpful or harmful.
   - Conflict may be intentional or unintentional
   - Conflict may allow for synthesis and change

3. Exploration
   - Exploration requires recognizing purpose and responding to it
   - Exploration confronts "the unknown"
   - Exploration may result in "new findings" or the confirmation of "old findings"

4. Force
   - Force attracts, hold or repels
   - Force influences or changes
   - Force and inertia are co-dependent
   - Force may be countered with equal or greater force

5. Patterns
   - Patterns have segments that are repeated
   - Patterns allow for prediction
   - Patterns can be ordered internally or externally
   - Patterns are enablers

6. Order vs Chaos
   - Order may be natural or constructed
   - Order has a purpose
   - Order may allow for prediction
   - Order is a form of communication
   - Order may have repeated patterns
   - Order and chaos are reciprocals
   - Order leads to chaos and chaos leads to order

THEMES AND GENERALIZATIONS

Generalizations are statements that are generally true or applicable to multiple situations. They transcend time, place, and culture. Generalizations facilitate inquiry by acting as a stimulus for students to gather evidence with which to prove the statement.
7. Power
- Power is the ability to influence
- Power may be used or abused
- Power is always present in some form
- Power may take many forms (chemical, electrical, political, mechanical)
- Power may be natural or constructed

8. Structure
- Structure have parts that interrelate
- Parts of structures support and are supported by other parts
- Smaller structures may be combined to form larger structures
- A structure is no stronger than its weakest component parts

9. Relationships
- Everything is related in some way
- All relationships are purposeful
- Relationships change over time
- Relationships lead to new relationships

10. Systems
- Systems have parts that work to complete a task
- Systems are composed of subsystems
- Part of systems are interdependent upon one another and form symbiotic relationships
- A system may be influenced by other systems
- Systems interact
- Systems follow rules

11. Adaptation
- Adaptation occurs over time
- Adaptation can be planned or spontaneous
- Adaptation can be positive or negative
- Adaptation is necessary for growth
- Adaptation is necessary for survival
- Adaptation leads to change

A Few Basic Generalizations:
- ___________________ are reciprocal and interdependent.
- ___________________ is inevitable.
- ___________________ can be natural or artificial.
- There are _______ within ________.
- ___________________ can be positive or negative.
- ___________________ have/has structure and functions.
- ___________________ can be chosen or imposed.

Adapted from S. Kaplan