



Hunger Banquet (submitted by Heather Bullock, adapted from Oxfam)

This is a great exercise for raising awareness of worldwide hunger, poverty, and the distribution of resources. It is available on the Oxfam website; visit http://harvest.oxfamamerica.org/login_form to log-in and obtain free access to downloadable materials). Instructions for organizing a Hunger Banquet are provided in the *Oxfam America FAST Sourcebook*.

The activity involves dividing participants into high, middle, or low income groups. A script about the worldwide distribution of resources is provided for the moderator (instructor) as well as discussion questions for participants (students). After dividing participants into different class groupings and presenting information about the distribution of resources, participants are served a "meal" (e.g., a full-scale nutritious meal served at a banquet table vs. rice and water). Although the Oxfam exercise is geared toward a large audience, this exercise can easily be modified for classroom settings. I have used variations of this activity with great success in my upper-division course on the social psychology of poverty and social class with 30 or 60 students. This is a terrific activity to do at the start of the quarter during the first or second meeting of the class. Instead of a full meal, I typically have dessert with the high-income group being served a fancy cake from an upscale bakery, the middle-income group receiving one packaged cookie per member, and the low-income group receiving one animal cookie per member.