**Fertility & Fecundity: The Population Paradox**

**Video - “World in the Balance” (Nova)**

1. What are the five biggest concerns raised by population growth / decrease in countries around the world? Explain your choices.

2. How do sexist attitudes affect birth rates in areas like India? Africa? How will women’s liberation affect birth rates in the future?

3. With food shortages occurring *today*, what suggestions might help change the course of the somewhat bleak future?

4. What is Canada’s / North America’s response to the population paradox? What new issues are raised by this response?

5. Why are countries finding it easier to shrink population than raise it? What factors discourage births in countries like Canada and the U.S.?

6. Examine the maps at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/earth/earth-peril.html>

Which map(s) is most interesting to you? Explain what it reveals and why you find it important.

7. **Reflection:** Write a 1-2 page reflection based on issues raised in the video and discussion. In what ways could our future be affected by population in other countries? In what ways could we benefit? Suggest ways in which we may make a difference in the bigger picture when it comes to this issue.