

## West Virginia Studies Resource Development

<b>Title of Lesson:</b> Population shift 1950-2010 - but why? (Part 2)
<b>Grade level:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<b>Summary:</b> Now that students have gotten a grasp on the census, the population shift. We need to look at the why. Why is the population in WV decreasing? What is causing people to leave? Thinking about the future - is there hope and if so, what is that hope?
<b>WV CCR Social Studies Standards:</b> SS.8.15 Investigate climate, landforms, natural resources, and population density in WV's geographical regions using special purpose maps and evaluate the impact of people's lives and settlement patterns using GIS, topographical maps, climate and census maps
<b>Students will know and understand (content) (Essential Questions):</b> What has caused the downward shift in WV's population? Is there hope for the future of the state to stop this downward spiral?
<b>Students will be able to do (skills):</b> Research the causes of the decrease in population Analyze the findings of the decline Make predictions on how WV could recover from this shift
<b>Materials &amp; Resources:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● computer</li><li>● suggested websites</li><li>● graphic organizer</li><li>● essay review (obtain from 8th grade English teacher to be consistent with what they are learning)</li></ul>
<b>Learning Plan:</b>  Intro: Review the findings from the census lesson and then share/show the graphs that were created. Discuss the concerns with the decline in population. Tell the students it is now time to gather more information. We need to understand the "why" in order to try to predict what WV and its leaders can do for the future of the state.

**Activity - Students will be reading recent news articles to draw conclusions as to why our state population has been declining. Their goal will be to come up with 3 major reasons for the decline and utilize the graphic organizer below to help them gather their thoughts (they will continue to branch off or they can draw their own on paper).**

**NOTE: Before completing this assignment, I pair up with the English teachers to obtain their normal essay writing format/ideas for support as to try to help the students grow in the essay writing that they are accustomed to.**

**Here is a list of articles as a foundation but you could definitely expand:**

- [https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/wv-one-of-two-states-with-population-decline-over-past/article\\_a34ce34b-3bd6-5a68-9838-d399c4cb7247.html](https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/wv-one-of-two-states-with-population-decline-over-past/article_a34ce34b-3bd6-5a68-9838-d399c4cb7247.html)
- <https://www.wsaz.com/content/news/West-Virginia-population-drops-by-more-than-11000-503258441.html>
- [https://www.herald-dispatch.com/opinion/editorial-w-va-population-decline-points-to-larger-problems/article\\_6d37c51c-22b0-5d14-be83-1912b3cbc4b2.html](https://www.herald-dispatch.com/opinion/editorial-w-va-population-decline-points-to-larger-problems/article_6d37c51c-22b0-5d14-be83-1912b3cbc4b2.html)
- <http://worldpopulationreview.com/states/west-virginia-population/>
- <https://www.wtrf.com/news/u-s-census-west-virginia-population-on-6-year-decline/>
- [https://www.register-herald.com/news/outmigration-west-virginia-s-population-decline/article\\_98ff5f5a-29a1-5779-8c69-2f69c680ba76.html](https://www.register-herald.com/news/outmigration-west-virginia-s-population-decline/article_98ff5f5a-29a1-5779-8c69-2f69c680ba76.html)
- <http://www.newsandsentinel.com/opinion/editorials/2018/12/population-west-virginia-must-reverse-declining-numbers/>

**These are just a few that have been written in recent years**

**After the students have gathered information - have them transfer their 3 major reasons and facts or explanations to the chart below. Their next job is to consider how do we combat each of these issues - what is the fix? Is there a fix? Does WV need to make some kind of shift? If so - how?**

**During this time (and research time as well) there is a lot of 1-on-1 time spent discussing, sometimes helping outlines begin, answering questions and providing guidance.**

**Before the writing begins - this is where I review the English teacher's protocol. I normally touch on the following**

- How they like them to assemble their 5-paragraph essay
- How to write an intro paragraph especially the thesis
- How to connect your first sentence of each supporting paragraph with your facts and ways to combat repetition
- How to write a conclusion

**Writing Rough draft - as students are writing this again calls for a lot of 1-on-1. Most of the class period is spent rotating through all the students making sure that they understand the writing process as well as having the information to support their writing**

**After rough draft I normally do peer editing and then they submit the final copy to me**

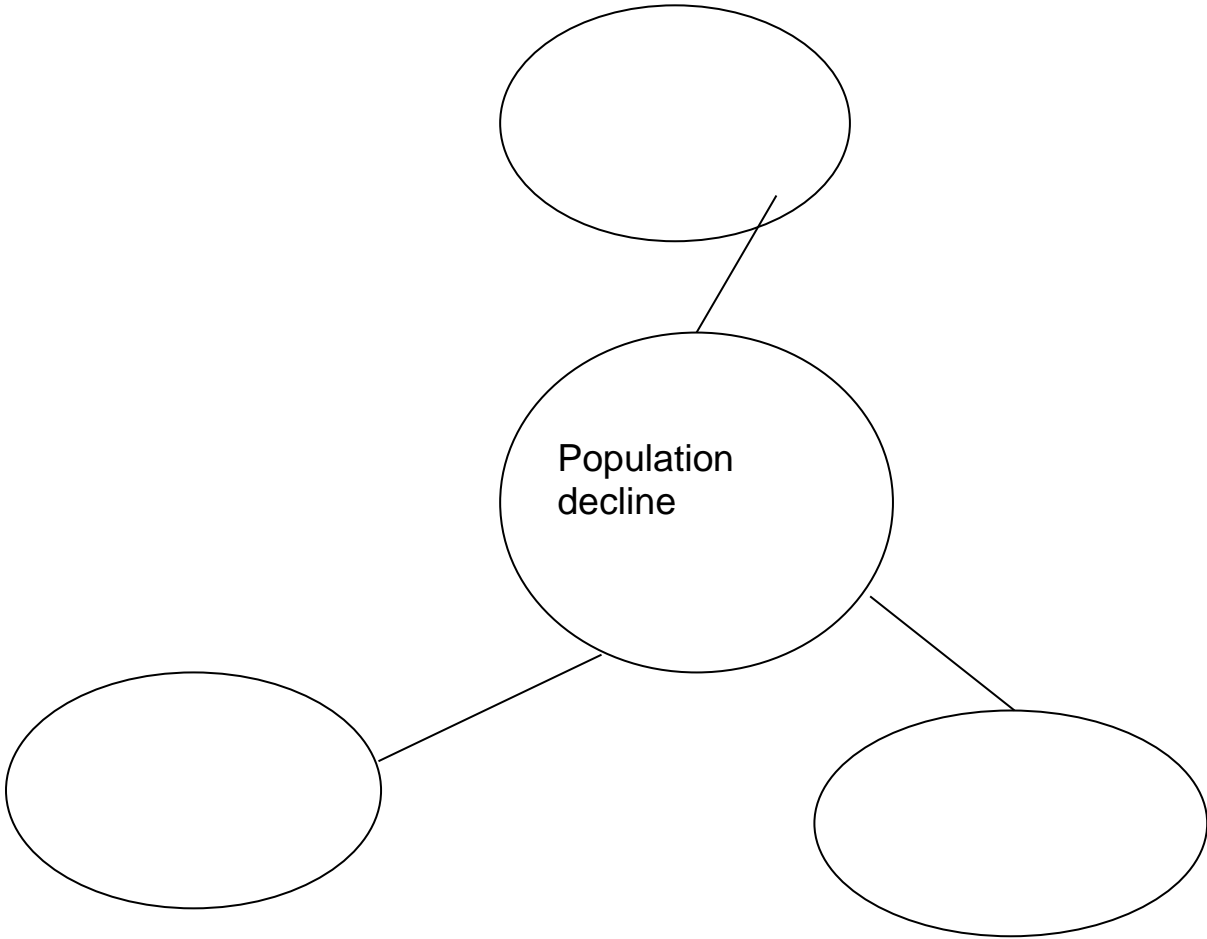
**In addition, we normally share our essays as it fosters good discussion and allows for a better understanding for all students**

**Checking for Understanding:**

- **Initial review discussion**
- **1-on-1 meetings during research and writing**
- **Final paper**

**Accommodations:**

- **modified writing / research expectations**
- **additional outlining or guidance through research**
- **Limited resources when researching**
- **Fill in the blank type of writing**



Population Decline (Reason)	Explanation of the Decline	How to combat
1		
2		
3		