

Learning Exercise #1

Farm students always try to pick fights with city students at Fleming Consolidated School. Three Social Scientists explain the problem in three different ways as follows:

Sociologist

“An abrupt change in institutions is the problem. The farm students previously attended a small school where they knew everyone and received much personal attention from teachers. They feel lost in the bigger, more impersonal school. They take their frustrations out on city students.”

Psychologist

“The farm students’ parents are very strict with them. Thus, the students feel powerless at home. They work out their frustrations by fighting with the city students at school.”

Anthropologist

“This is a cultural problem. The farm students do not understand the city students’ culture, considering them ‘sissies’. The city students, on the other hand, do not understand the farm students’ culture. They consider the farm students ‘redneck’. Thus, the two groups fight.”

Which do you consider the most logical approach? Why? How would you solve the problem at Fleming Consolidated School? Might you combine the ideas of two or all three of the Social Scientists? How?