

HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS

Foreign Aid for Overcoming Poverty Traps

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, it is *information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Sachs, J. D. (2005). Making the Investments Needed to End Poverty. In *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (pp. 244–265). New York: Penguin.

Questions

1. What is a poverty trap? According to Jeffrey Sachs, how is foreign aid supposed to overcome poverty traps?
2. What does Sachs believe investments in capital should be primarily publicly (as opposed to privately) funded?
3. How does Sachs believe that poor, developing nations should go about investing in technology and science? Why is it important that they make such investments?
4. What is “scaling up” and how do Sachs’ examples show how foreign aid in investment allows scaling up to overcome poverty traps?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.