

Research Article

AI-eEmpowered Problem-Solving for Civic Issues: Considering New York in 2024

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Abstract

Idea Coach, an AI-empowered program, was instructed to provide suggestions and innovations for dealing with eight problems plaguing the state of New York. These problems reflect different areas of civic distress (e.g., crime-plagued streets), economics (e.g., flight of the middle class from NY), and so forth. Idea Coach was often able to deliver meaningful suggestions about how specifically to ameliorate the specific problem, and recommend intuitively meaningful innovations to consider for the future. This exercise suggests the promise of using AI in the form of Chat GPT3.5, as a way to create a quick overview of problems and their solutions. The paper highlights the benefit of AI as providing an education about a problem, with the education accomplished quickly (a matter of minutes), inexpensively (low cost for the use of the platform), and iteratively (many alternatives proposed for consideration across successive and easy repetitions of the exercise).

Introduction

As the century progresses, or in truth as history progresses, often the bright hope for the future turns into a drab, unpleasant, and of course disappointing present, and over time that present becomes a past to mourn. As poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote so touching in 'Maude Muller', *'of all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are it might have been.'*

Government is presumed to be at the service of people. In free countries people are presumed to elect those who can give them a better life. And yet, repeatedly we are treated to noble visions and hopes turned into shattered dreams. Is it possible to create lists of things to improve society without having to spend extraordinary amounts of money on experts, consultants, consumer research ranging from qualitative groups (in-depth interviews, focus groups) to massive surveys, done quickly, over the internet, but covering little and all too often over-analyzed?

The introduction of the Internet in the 1990's was hailed as a new way for people to connect with each other. Solving civic problems was part of the hope. Instead of the expensive interactions between people and the slow-moving efforts, it was often thought that this 'new wave of communicating' would generate a better society. People could surface issues better, with the presumption that once enough people and especially 'experts' heard about the issue, thought about, discussed ramifications and solutions, that somehow the magic of many minds working together would guide a solution to the problem, and all would be well.

The literature of suggested problem solving for civic problems is enormous. One need only look at Google Scholar to get a sense of the vast literature. Figure 1 shows a screen shot taken January 15, 2024.

The topic is 'solving social problems.' Google Scholar emerges with more than six million hits (6,230,000 to be exact).

The number of Google Scholar 'hits' drops down by more than half when the topic is more specific, 'using AI to suggest solutions to social problems.' The number is 2,810,000 and a longer search time, viz., from 0.10 seconds to 0.22 seconds. Figure 2 shows this screen shot.

Many of the papers talk about the promise of AI, and in turn the way AI should be considered, used, and interpreted. The paper in the literature emerge from the careful consideration of a new technology applied to the problem [1,2]. Some of the literature also pertains to the intersection of AI and societal goals, such as those put forward by the United Nations, for the year 2030 [3,4].

This paper moves from a general consideration of AI and social problems to an exploration of specifics, using the AI-empowered Idea Coach found in SaaS (Socrates as a Service, and in Mind Genomics. Both systems use AI in the form of Chat GPT3.5 [5]. They can be accessed directly: Mind Genomics a: www.bimileap.com Socrates as a Service at <https://socratesasaservice.com/u/dashboard>.

The original reason for the incorporation of AI into these two platforms comes from the frustrations encountered by researchers when investigating a topic using Mind Genomics. Mind Genomics focused on the creation of a set of questions for a topic, and then for each question required the user to create a set of four answers (elements). These 'elements' would then be mixed together to create small, easy to read combinations, vignettes. The ratings assigned to these vignettes would be then deconstructed into the contribution of the individual elements as a driver of the vignette. The benefit of this seemingly circuitous approach, replacing simple questions, is that

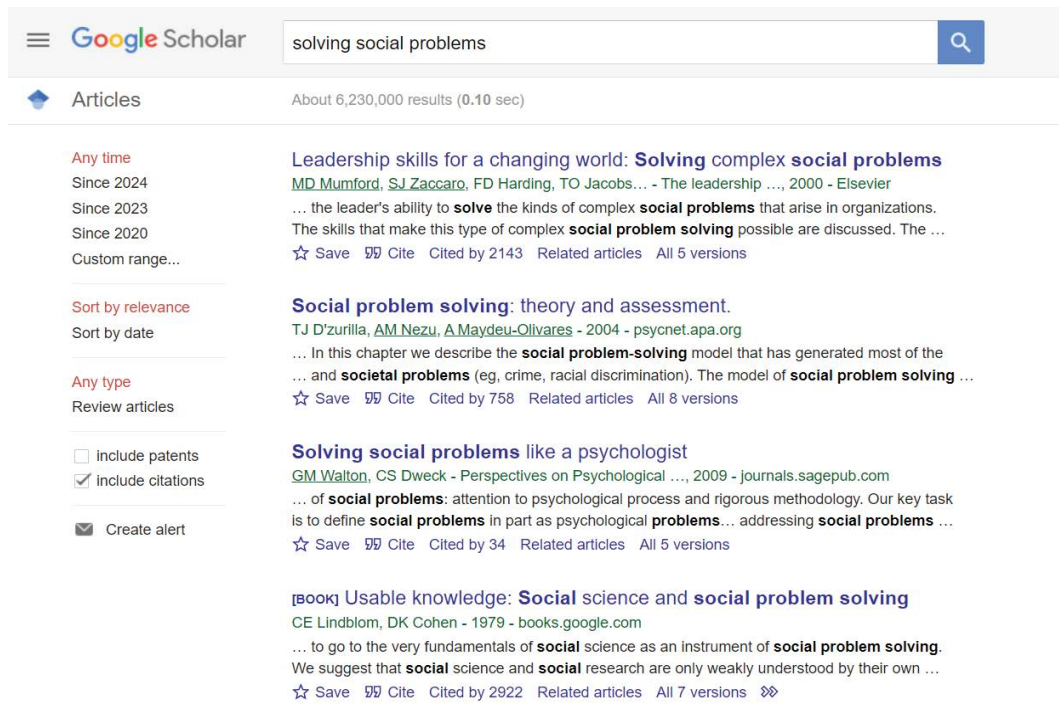


Figure 1: Google Scholar results from searching for papers on 'solving social problems'.

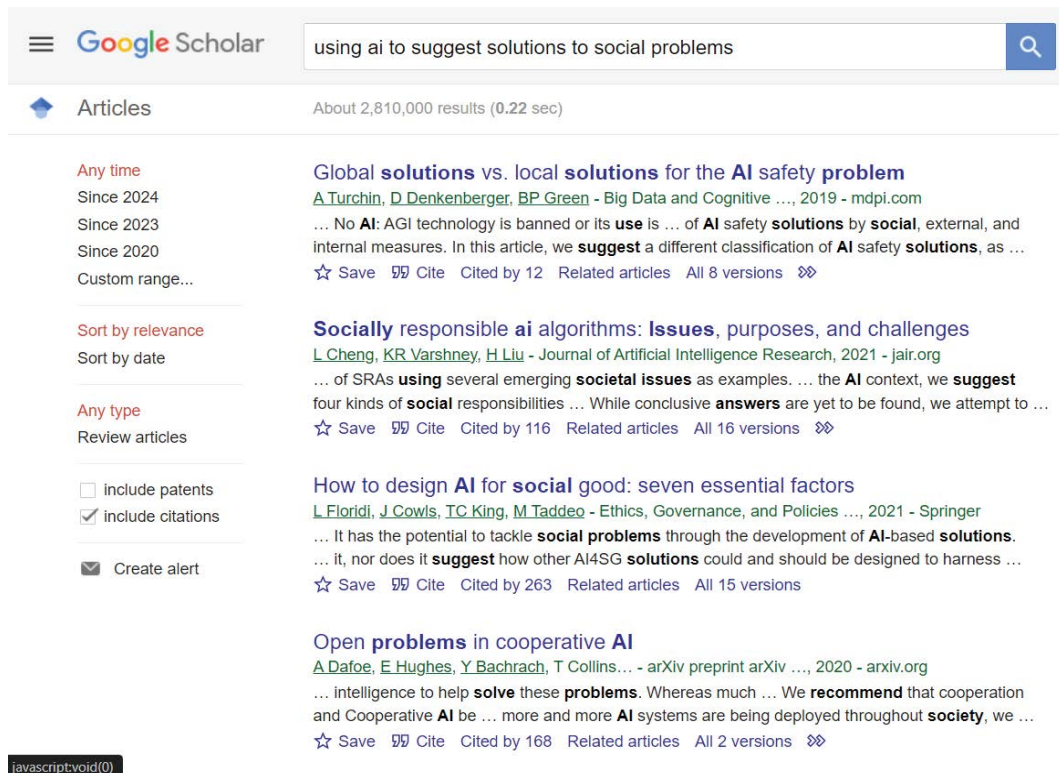


Figure 2: Google Scholar results after 'using AI to suggest solutions to social problems'.

the Mind Genomics projects focused on the 'granular,' where reality manifests itself. It was impossible to 'game' a Mind Genomics study. The results showed how people made decisions with real-world issues, rather than rating abstract concepts as is often the case with surveys focusing on a topic or focusing on a recent personal experience [6,7].

Within this carefully crafted system the key weakness was that many users felt intimidated by having to ask meaningful questions. To this end, AI was introduced as a guide, appearing to the user to be a seamless add-on to the Mind Genomics process, and given the name 'Idea Coach' to encourage the user. Figure 3 shows the initial

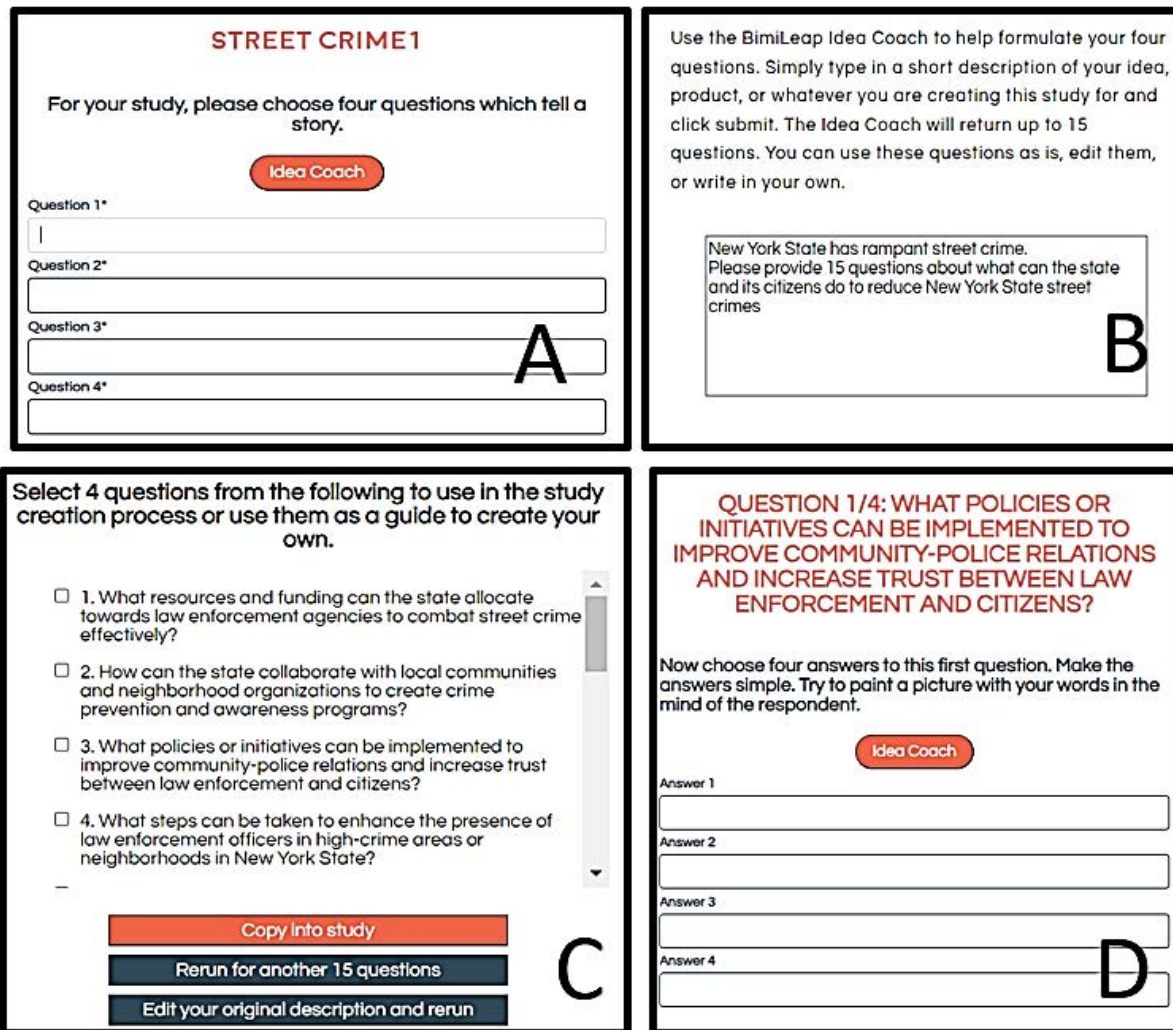


Figure 3: The sequence of screens showing the request for four questions (Panel A), the use of Idea Coach (Panel B), the output from an iteration of Idea Coach (Panel C), and the request for four answers to Question 1 of 4.

format of the Mind Genomics effort. Panel A shows the request that the user provide four questions. It was here that the user became discouraged. Panel B shows the rectangle wherein the user writes a squib to describe the need to the AI-empowered Idea Coach, in this case a request to provide questions relevant to the issue of crime in the streets. Panel C shows the output form Idea Coach, comprising four of the 15 questions returned by the Idea Coach.

The approach shown in Figure 3 has been used for several two years, as of this writing. The introduction of the Idea Coach substantially enhanced the usability of the Mind Genomics paradigm allowing the researcher to develop questions and answers rapidly. The next steps for Mind Genomics studies were to combine the answers from the four questions into small, easy to read vignettes, combinations of answers (aka element). The vignettes comprised a minimum of two elements, and a maximum of four elements, the vignettes created according to an underlying experimental design. No vignette ever contained two or more elements or answers from a question, but often a vignette failed to contain an element from one, or even from two different questions.

The foregoing approach for Mind Genomics in general, and

for Idea Coach in particular, focused on simplifying the creation of vignettes. What was not apparent at the point was the possibility that the AI embedded in Idea Coach could do far more, when properly instructed.

It is the extension of Idea Coach into new areas, specifically into new types of requests that one can make for the AI, and the presentation of the results for this initial foray beyond the simplistic question/answer paradigm.

Method

The approach here uses Idea Coach and thus AI is a new way, doing so in the spirit of Mind Genomics, but pushing the AI to provide all the information when the problem is described. That is, the squib describing the problem also requests alternative solutions, and reasons for the solutions. The squib is far more detailed than the original squibs written to generate questions, and then subsequent squibs which generated alternative sets of answers from the squib.

The paper begins with the first advance, viz., requesting questions and answers to be provided at the outset through Idea Coach. Table

1 shows a slightly expanded squib provided to Idea Coach, and thus constituting the instructions to the embedded AI. The squib comprises several logical sections, as follows:

1. The general introduction. Here the introduction talks about New York, specifying the market, and the issue. There is nothing here which can guide Idea Coach about solving any problem.
2. Instructions to Idea Coach to make sure that the results are specific, and the solutions are realistic, i.e., one can actually act on them.
3. The statement of the problem, in modest detail, providing some specification
4. The request to AI to provide solutions to a specified problem.

It is important to keep in mind that this modification to the use of Idea Coach does not require two squibs, the first being the request for questions, and the second being the request for answers to specific questions. Figure 3 shows that traditional two-step process. Table 1 attempts to collapse the process.

The remainder of this paper comprises a demonstration of the solutions and innovation for each of xxx problems plaguing New York. When reading the tables one should keep in mind that the problems presented to the AI were very general. Each particular table was created with the same instructions. Only the problem differed The answers, however, were requested to be realistic. The AI was requested to give 10 solutions, a request that was sometimes honored, and sometimes not honored.

The Idea Coach was developed to be iterative (see Figure 3, bottom of Panel C). That is, the user could revise the request to Idea Coach, changing the nature of the problem, the number of requested solutions, and so forth. It is this 'iterative' nature of Idea Coach which leads to the format of Table 1. With a simple set of keystrokes the user can re-run the request to create a new set of solutions, or the

Table 1: The revised process for Idea Coach, attempting to collapse the process into one step to give to Idea Coach.

<p>New York state has many problems Read the problem and provide 10 specific solutions to the question below. Make sure the solutions are realistic. The PROBLEM is: New York State is suffering from street crimes.</p>

Table 2: The summarization material provided in the Idea Book, provided to the user after the user logged off from the project.

1	Topic Questions (10 specific solutions)
2	Key Ideas
3	Themes
4	Perspectives
5	What is missing
6	Alternative Viewpoints
7	Interested Audiences
8	Opposing Audiences
9	Innovations

user can modify the problem, e.g., from street crime to education, and immediately receive an additional set of solutions. Each iteration takes approximately 15-30 seconds, so that a set of 10 problems can be addressed in about five minutes.

After the initial solutions were presented to the user, and after the Mind Genomics program was closed by having the user log-off, a second module of the Mind Genomics platform went to work on the question and the answers, to provide a summarization. The summarization provided this additional information, shown in Table 2. This AI summarization was emailed to the user about 20 minutes after the user logged-off. The result is that within 30 minutes or so, the enterprising user of Idea Coach can investigate ten issues, or one issue ten times, receive results from AI, and then at the end of the process receive a summarized, deeply re-analyzed booklet, with each iteration deeply explored anew by AI.

Table 3 shows the first iteration to deal with reducing street crime. Table 4 shows the first iteration to improve education in New York State. Each table is divided into two parts, solutions and innovations, respectively.

The top part (solutions) presents the information that was returned immediately upon presenting Idea Coach with the squib. This information can be immediately scanned by the user, who can re-run the request to get more solutions, or modify the squib and then re-run it, thus changing the focus of the request to Idea Coach.

The bottom part (innovations) actually comes from the summarization of this information, provided to the user in the Idea Book . Recall that the Idea Book is send to the user about 20 minutes after the user logged-off. The embedded AI in Idea Coach reviews the solutions, and comes up a set of new suggestions, expanding the scope of the already-offered solutions. In this respect, one might say that AI is producing 'new knowledge.'

Appendices 1-6 to this paper shows the solutions and innovations relevant to each of the remaining problems facing New York State. Appendix 7 shows an example of what the Idea Book returns to the user at post-processing. Appendix 7 presents the full Idea Book page for the second iteration dealing with reducing street crime. The sections of the page are shown in Table 2. Each iteration is separate, so Appendix 7 presents new data, albeit for the same topic of reducing street crime.

Moving from Solutions to Implementation, Assessment, and Expected Public Reaction

Tables 3 and 4 suggest that the AI embedded in Idea Coach can move beyond regurgitating information, and perhaps provide new ideas, or at least ideas that were not originally present in the request. Whether or not the innovations truly represent 'new information' is not relevant. What is relevant is the recognition that the AI can be ask to hypothesize about outcomes.

Tables 5 and 6 show the same topics, street crime and education, respectively, this time explored by AI in a deeper way, namely by asking AI to suggest a set of 10 solutions for each general problem. Each solution is to comprise five parts, the solution to be considered as

Table 3: Solutions to reduce street crime, provided by Idea Coach. The top half of the table shows what is provided at the time of use. Both the top and bottom halves of the table are provided in the Idea Book, sent to the user.

<p>Solutions to reduce street crime</p> <p>Community Policing: Increase the presence of police officers in neighborhoods to establish stronger relationships with residents and deter criminal activity.</p> <p>Enhanced CCTV Surveillance: Install and upgrade security cameras in high-crime areas to increase monitoring and detection of criminal incidents.</p> <p>Neighborhood Watch Programs: Encourage residents to form neighborhood watch groups and collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to prevent crime.</p> <p>Increased Lighting: Improve street lighting in areas prone to street crime, making it harder for criminals to conceal their activities.</p> <p>Education and Awareness Programs: Implement educational initiatives to raise awareness about the consequences of street crime and teach strategies for crime prevention.</p> <p>Targeted Interventions: Focus on crime hotspots and engage in proactive enforcement efforts to disrupt criminal activities in these areas.</p> <p>Strengthen Anti-Gang Programs: Invest in programs and resources that target the root causes of gang-related violence and offer alternatives for at-risk individuals.</p> <p>Employment and Job Training: Provide job training and create employment opportunities to reduce street crime by addressing socio-economic factors contributing to criminal behavior.</p> <p>Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment: Expand substance abuse prevention programs and increase access to treatment options to combat drug-related crimes.</p> <p>Enhanced Cooperation with Federal Agencies: Collaborate with federal law enforcement agencies to enhance intelligence sharing, investigations, and prosecution of street crime cases that cross state lines.</p> <p>Innovations to reduce street crime.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the causes and prevalence of street crime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New research studies and surveys to further understand the underlying causes of street crime. - Analytical software or tools to track and analyze patterns of street crime. - Training programs for law enforcement officers to enhance their understanding of the causes and prevalence of street crime. Identifying high-crime areas and evaluating previous policing strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced crime mapping technology to identify hotspots and high-crime areas. - Evaluation software or systems to assess the effectiveness of previous policing strategies. - Collaborative platforms for law enforcement agencies to share information and best practices in identifying high-crime areas. Successful community programs and community participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community outreach initiatives to build trust and engage with local residents. - Online platforms or mobile applications to facilitate community participation in crime prevention programs. - Funding and resources for community-led initiatives focused on reducing street crime. Providing support to victims and involving schools and educational institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Counseling services and support groups for street crime victims. - Partnerships between law enforcement agencies and schools to educate students about street crime prevention. - Integration of street crime awareness and prevention programs into school curriculums. Preventive measures and incentives for at-risk individuals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentorship programs for at-risk individuals to guide them away from street crime. - Financial incentives or job training programs to provide alternative pathways for at-risk individuals. - Early intervention programs that target at-risk youth and provide them with necessary support and resources. Punishment and solving street crime cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forensic technologies and tools to improve the efficiency and accuracy of street crime investigations. - Rehabilitation programs within correctional facilities to reduce recidivism rates among street crime offenders. - Strengthening of legal frameworks and policies to ensure swift and fair punishment for street crime perpetrators
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Table 4: Solutions to stop the decline in educational performance in public schools in New York State, provided by Idea Coach. The top half of the table shows what is provided at the time of use. Both the top and bottom halves of the table are provided in the Idea Book, sent to the user.

<p>Solutions to stop the decline in educational performance in public schools in New York State:</p> <p>Increase funding for public schools to provide better resources and technology.</p> <p>Implement a comprehensive curriculum review and update, ensuring it aligns with state and national standards.</p> <p>Enhance teacher training programs to keep educators up to date with best practices and teaching methods.</p> <p>Reduce class sizes to enable more personalized attention and instruction for each student.</p> <p>Promote parental involvement through workshops and initiatives, encouraging them to actively participate in their child's education.</p> <p>Offer after-school programs and tutoring services to provide additional academic support for struggling students.</p> <p>Implement a data-driven approach to evaluate student progress, identify areas for improvement, and provide targeted interventions.</p> <p>Strengthen teacher evaluations to ensure accountability and help identify professional development needs.</p> <p>Promote a positive school culture and climate to enhance student engagement and overall academic performance.</p> <p>Encourage partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with real-world learning opportunities and internships.</p> <p>Innovations to stop the decline in educational performance in public schools in New York State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing virtual or augmented reality technology in classrooms to enhance learning experiences - Introducing online learning platforms and digital resources for students to access educational materials anytime, anywhere - Adopting personalized learning software that adapts to individual student needs and progress - Providing technology training and resources for teachers to effectively integrate technology into their teaching practices - Establishing policies to ensure equitable access to technology for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background - Collaborating with technology companies to develop innovative educational apps and tools that engage and motivate students
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Table 5: Expanded squib for Idea Coach, dealing with street crime. The squib requests 10 solutions, each with several steps, and then the evaluation of the solution on effectiveness, cost, timeline, and expected public reaction.

<p>Topic: New York State has a problem with street crime. Please suggest 10 solutions to substantially reduce street crime. For each solution, do the following: 1. Give the solution a simple title 2. Describe the solution..what to do 3. Provide at least five steps, in the correct order, so that following these steps produces a really good solution with a high chance to reduce street crime. 4. For each solution, give a sense of the effectiveness of the solution. Use this Scale <i>Solution Will Probably Work; Solution May Work; Solution May Not Work; Solution Will Probably Not Work</i> 5. For each solution, give the expected cost of the solution. Use this scale. <i>Solution will be expensive; Solution will incur a moderate cost. Solution will incur a low cost. Solution will cost almost nothing.</i> 6. For each solution give the expected timeline to implement the solution. Use this scale. <i>The solution will be implemented quickly. The solution will be implemented slowly. Solution may never be implemented.</i> 7. For each solution, give the expected reaction of the public. Use this scale. <i>The public will be thrilled with the solution. The public may accept the solution. The public may complain about the solution. The public will reject the solution</i></p> <p>Solution 1: Increase police presence in high-crime areas Allocate additional police resources to high-crime areas. Implement regular foot patrols by police officers in these areas. Conduct more frequent vehicle patrols to deter crime. Increase the number of police stations in these areas. Establish a strong community policing program to build trust between police and residents. Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly Public reaction: The public will may accept the solution</p> <p>Solution 2: Implement community outreach programs Allocate funds to establish community centers in high-crime areas. Organize activities and events for youth and families in these centers. Partner with local organizations to provide educational and vocational programs. Train community leaders in conflict resolution and mediation. Encourage residents to participate in neighborhood watch programs. Effectiveness: Solution May Work Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly Public reaction: The public will may accept the solution</p> <p>Solution 3: Enhance public transportation security Increase police presence in subway stations and bus stops. Install surveillance cameras to deter crimes. Conduct regular security checks on public transportation vehicles. Improve lighting and visibility in and around transportation hubs. Implement awareness campaigns to educate passengers about safety measures. Effectiveness: Solution May Work Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly Public reaction: The public will may accept the solution</p> <p>Solution 4: Improve street lighting Conduct an assessment of areas with poor lighting and identify critical spots. Install brighter and energy-efficient streetlights in those areas. Perform regular maintenance and repairs to ensure functional lighting. Consider implementing motion-sensor lights in isolated areas. Encourage local residents to report and prioritize lighting issues. Effectiveness: Solution May Work Cost: Solution will incur a low cost Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly Public reaction: The public may accept the solution</p> <p>Solution 5: Establish a witness protection program Develop legislation and policies to support witness protection. Create a specialized unit responsible for witness safety and relocation. Provide enhanced security measures and new identities for witnesses. Offer counseling and emotional support to witnesses and their families. Collaborate with law enforcement agencies to ensure successful protection.</p>

Effectiveness: Solution May Not Work

Cost: Solution will be expensive

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly

Public reaction: The public may accept the solution

Solution 6: Implement stricter gun control measures

Review and enhance existing gun control legislation.

Increase background checks for gun purchases.

Establish stricter penalties for illegal possession and use of firearms.

Promote awareness campaigns on responsible gun ownership.

Collaborate with federal agencies to trace and control the flow of illegal guns.

Effectiveness: Solution May Not Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly

Public reaction: The public may complain about the solution

Solution 7: Expand social programs for at-risk individuals

Increase funding for education and vocational training programs.

Enhance access to mental health services for individuals at risk of crime.

Develop substance abuse prevention and rehabilitation initiatives.

Implement job placement and support programs for ex-offenders.

Collaborate with social service organizations to provide comprehensive support.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly

Public reaction: The public may accept the solution

Solution 8: Increase penalties for repeat offenders

Review current sentencing guidelines and legislation.

Establish mandatory minimum sentences for repeat offenders.

Strengthen supervision and monitoring for individuals on probation or parole.

Develop rehabilitation programs within correctional facilities.

Collaborate with community organizations to facilitate successful reintegration.

Effectiveness: Solution May Not Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly

Public reaction: The public may complain about the solution

Solution 9: Improve surveillance technology

Implement a network of surveillance cameras in high-crime areas.

Integrate the camera system with advanced analytics and facial recognition.

Establish a central monitoring center to respond to incidents in real-time.

Provide training to law enforcement on effective camera usage.

Inform the public about the presence and purpose of surveillance cameras.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work

Cost: Solution will be expensive

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly

Public reaction: The public may accept the solution

Solution 10: Develop neighborhood-specific crime prevention strategies

Conduct an in-depth analysis of crime patterns in each neighborhood.

Engage residents in community forums to identify neighborhood-specific concerns.

Collaborate with local businesses and organizations to implement targeted solutions.

Provide resources and support for neighborhood watch programs.

Regularly assess and adapt strategies based on evaluation and feedback.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work

Cost: Solution will incur a low cost

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly

Public reaction: The public may accept the solution

Table 6: Expanded squib for Idea Coach, dealing with street crime. The squib requests 10 solutions, each with several steps, and then the evaluation of the solution on effectiveness, cost, timeline, and expected public reaction.

<p>Topic: New York State has a problem with poor education given in its public school (elementary school; middle school; high school)</p> <p>Please suggest four solutions for each level of school (elementary school; middle school; high school) to substantially improve the level of education and the performance of the students in the school</p> <p>For each solution, do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Give the solution a simple title 2. Describe the solution..what to do 3. Provide at least five steps, in the correct order, so that following these steps produces a really good solution with a high chance to reduce street crime. 4. For each solution, give a sense of the effectiveness of the solution. Use this Scale <i>Solution Will Probably Work; Solution May Work; Solution May Not Work; Solution Will Probably Not Work</i> 5. For each solution, give the expected cost of the solution. Use this scale. <i>Solution will be expensive; Solution will incur a moderate cost. Solution will incur a low cost. Solution will cost almost nothing.</i> 6. For each solution give the expected timeline to implement the solution. Use this scale. <i>The solution will be implemented quickly. The solution will be implemented slowly. Solution may never be implemented.</i> 7. For each solution, give the expected reaction of the public. Use this scale. <i>The public will be thrilled with the solution. The public may accept the solution. The public may complain about the solution. The public will reject the solution.</i> <p>Topic Questions:</p> <p>Elementary School:</p> <p>Solution 1: Implement Individualized Learning Plans Assess students' current level of knowledge and skills. Design personalized learning plans based on each student's strengths, weaknesses, and learning styles. Provide additional support and resources for students who need extra help. Regularly track and monitor students' progress. Adjust the learning plans accordingly based on the students' individual needs. Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work Cost: Solution will incur a low cost Time: Solution will be implemented slowly Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.</p> <p>Solution 2: Increase Funding for Early Childhood Education Allocate more funds to early childhood education programs. Enhance the quality of pre-K programs by hiring qualified teachers and providing adequate resources. Expand access to early childhood education programs for disadvantaged communities. Conduct regular evaluations of program effectiveness and make necessary improvements. Establish partnerships with parents to ensure their involvement in the education process. Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work Cost: Solution will be expensive Time: Solution will be implemented slowly Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.</p> <p>Solution 3: Enhance Teacher Training and Professional Development Provide comprehensive training to teachers on effective teaching methods, classroom management, and student engagement. Offer continuous professional development opportunities for teachers to stay updated with the latest teaching strategies. Encourage collaboration among teachers to share best practices and improve instructional techniques. Regularly evaluate teachers' performance and provide them with feedback and support. Invest in mentorship programs to help new teachers succeed in their first years. Effectiveness: Solution May Work Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost Time: Solution will be implemented slowly Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.</p> <p>Solution 4: Introduce Project-Based Learning Incorporate project-based learning into the curriculum to foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. Provide students with real-world, hands-on experiences to make learning more engaging and relevant. Establish partnerships with local organizations and businesses to provide resources and expertise for projects. Incorporate assessments that evaluate students' ability to apply knowledge and skills in practical situations. Monitor and evaluate the impact of project-based learning on students' academic performance and overall engagement. Effectiveness: Solution May Work Cost: Solution will incur a low cost Time: Solution will be implemented slowly Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.</p>

Middle School:

Solution 1: Strengthen Guidance and Counseling Programs

Increase the number of trained guidance counselors in middle schools.
Develop comprehensive guidance programs that address academic, social-emotional, and career development.
Provide individual and group counseling sessions for students to address their specific needs.
Offer workshops and resources to help students navigate the transition to high school.
Collaborate with families to provide support and resources for students' overall well-being.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 2: Implement Blended Learning Approaches

Provide access to technology resources and internet connectivity for all students.
Combine online learning platforms with traditional classroom instruction.
Design interactive and engaging online modules to supplement in-class learning.
Train teachers on blended learning strategies and integrate technology effectively into their teaching.
Monitor student progress and provide feedback to ensure successful implementation of blended learning.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 3: Strengthen STEM Education

Invest in resources and equipment to support STEM education.
Develop a curriculum that integrates science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
Provide professional development opportunities for teachers to enhance their knowledge and skills in STEM subjects.
Encourage partnerships with local universities and STEM-focused organizations to offer mentoring and enrichment opportunities.
Monitor student outcomes and assess the impact of the enhanced STEM education approach.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 4: Foster Parent and Community Engagement

Organize regular parent-teacher meetings and workshops to strengthen the home-school connection.
Establish parent advisory committees to gather input and feedback on school policies and practices.
Encourage community organizations to offer after-school programs and resources for students.
Create opportunities for parents and community members to volunteer in schools.
Celebrate and recognize the contributions of parents and community members in supporting student success.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work

Cost: Solution will incur a low cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

High School:

Solution 1: Expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs

Increase the variety of CTE programs offered in high schools.
Collaborate with local businesses and industry professionals to provide hands-on learning experiences.
Offer internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing opportunities for students.
Provide comprehensive college and career counseling to help students explore various paths.
Track and evaluate the employment and post-secondary outcomes of CTE program graduates.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 2: Implement College and Career Readiness Initiatives

Offer college preparatory courses and resources to support students in the application and admission process.
Arrange college visits and expose students to various post-secondary options.
Provide scholarships and financial aid information to bridge the affordability gap.
Develop partnerships with colleges and universities to facilitate seamless transitions for high school graduates.

Track and monitor students' success in college and career pursuits.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 3: Improve Mental Health Support

Increase the number of mental health professionals in high schools.

Implement regular mental health screenings for students to identify those in need of support.

Offer counseling services, support groups, and wellness programs to address students' emotional well-being.

Provide training for teachers and staff to recognize signs of mental health issues and offer appropriate support.

Collaborate with community mental health organizations to offer comprehensive services.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 4: Enhance Student Engagement

Implement project-based learning opportunities to make learning more meaningful and hands-on.

Offer a variety of extracurricular activities that cater to diverse student interests.

Promote student leadership and voice through student government and clubs.

Establish mentorship programs to connect students with caring adults.

Regularly assess and improve the school climate and culture to ensure a positive learning environment.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work

Cost: Solution will incur a low cost

Time: Solution will be implemented slowly

Reaction of the Public: The public may accept the solution.

a whole comprising those four parts. For each of the 10 solutions, Idea Coach is instructed to estimate four factors, each on its own unique scale: Effectiveness, Cost, Time, Public Reaction.

Tables 5 and 6 show that Idea Coach can do this task. There is no cautionary statement of impossibility, or that the task is beyond the program. Rather, Idea Coach and thus the embedded AI, returns dutifully with the larger solution, the four components, and then the evaluations.

The results shown by Tables 5 and 6 suggest that the incorporation of AI into the planning, using a simple platform such as Mind Genomics (www.BimiLeap.com) or Socrates as a Service (<https://socratesasaservice.com/u/dashboard>) present a new opportunity to systematically explore problems and their solutions, in a way which is feasible, fast, relatively complete, and perhaps enlightening and educational for those without deep experience in the topic.

Discussion and Conclusions

This paper began as an effort to demonstrate to senior government officials in New York that the contribution of AI in an easy-to-use format, and even by a novice new to the issues, could be helpful. The initial efforts focused on the traditional use of Mind Genomics, namely, create questions, answers, mix the answers into vignettes, test the vignettes, and discover how people think. That has been the approach, one set up following the dictates of science (e.g., experimental psychology), and especially psychophysics), as well as one using rigorous experimental design to create the test stimuli [8] and analyze the results [9].

As in many efforts in science, that which is planned often evolves

into that which ends up being discovered. The role of accidental discovery cannot be overemphasized here. No one was thinking that the Idea Coach squib should be written with a request both to list problems and list answers, and evaluations of those answers in terms of feasibility, cost, timing, and public reception. These were all steps to be taken with caution, slowly, after having studied the issue thoroughly, done one's so-called 'homework', and then suggesting an educated opinion after having been immersed in the problem.

Nothing could have predicted either the initial results, nor the reactions to efforts and finally to the expansion of the request made by AI. The results shown in Tables 5 and 6, as well as in Appendices 1-6 confirm the dramatic ease with which new ideas can be quickly investigated, perhaps for themselves, or perhaps as steps prior to consumer research. Certainly, it is to be expected that researchers who have done the type of pre-work shown in Tables 5 and 6, as well as in Appendices 1-6, are likely to recognize good answers when they appear, simply because of their easy-to-obtain experience with the Mind Genomics world.

The approach presented here touches on a variety of topics, ranging from the application of Mind Genomics and Idea Coach real world issues, and the implication for philosophical issues brought up by the readable results and judgments provided by AI (Tables 5 and 6; Appendix 7). It is clear that the results suggest practical suggestions that can be tested empirically to determine the degree to which the AI appears able to prescribe solutions for problems 'picked at random'. More puzzling, however, is the 'seeming capability' of AI to judge the difficulty and the outcome of courses of actions. Perhaps the machines really do have so-called 'tacit knowledge', but from where would this deep knowledge come from, a knowledge which makes the answers so

realistic? [10-12]. Despite these issues, however, and no matter what the deeper reality may be, demonstrations of the ability of AI to help in the formulation of policy for social issues seem destined to drive an increasing acceptance of AI as a collaborator to create a better society.

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Appendices – Solutions and Innovations for the Other Topics

Appendix 1 – Solutions and innovations to stop the invasion of homeless to in New York State

Solutions to stop the invasion of homeless people in New York state

- Increase funding for affordable housing programs to provide more shelter options for homeless individuals.
- Implement targeted outreach programs to connect homeless individuals with available resources and support services.
- Enhance mental health services to address underlying issues that contribute to homelessness.
- Strengthen job training and employment assistance programs to help homeless individuals secure sustainable employment.
- Expand access to healthcare services for homeless individuals, including programs tailored to their specific needs.
- Facilitate collaboration among local government agencies, nonprofits, and community organizations to create a comprehensive approach to tackling homelessness.
- Invest in transitional housing and supportive services to aid individuals in their transition from homelessness to stable housing.
- Increase resources for homeless prevention programs, focusing on early intervention and assistance to those at risk of homelessness.
- Encourage community involvement through volunteer opportunities and awareness campaigns to address the issue of homelessness.
- Implement legislation to protect the rights and prevent discrimination against homeless individuals, aiding their ability to access housing and employment opportunities.

Innovations to stop the invasion of homeless people in New York States

- Affordable and modular housing solutions that can be quickly deployed to provide temporary shelter for the homeless population.
- Mobile shower and hygiene facilities for homeless individuals to maintain their personal hygiene.
- Community-based support programs that provide job training and placement services to homeless individuals to help them transition into stable employment.
- Coordinated healthcare services specifically tailored to the needs of homeless individuals, including mental health and addiction treatment.
- Social impact bonds or other innovative financing models to fund homelessness prevention and intervention programs.
- Public-private partnerships to create supportive housing options that address the specific needs of homeless individuals with mental health issues or substance abuse disorders.
- Mobile outreach teams that provide immediate assistance and resources to homeless individuals on the streets.
- Collaborative efforts between schools, shelters, and community organizations to ensure educational stability and support for homeless children.
- Policies that prioritize housing over incarceration for non-violent homeless individuals who engage in low-level offenses.
- Technology solutions such as mobile apps or websites that connect homeless individuals with available resources and support services in their area.

Appendix 2 – Solutions and innovations to reduce the loss of middle-class people in New York State

Solutions to reduce the loss of middle-class people in New York state

- Affordable housing initiatives: Implement programs that provide financial support and incentives for developers to build affordable housing options.
- Tax credits for middle-class households: Introduce tax incentives for middle-class individuals and families to encourage them to stay in New York state.
- Education and job training programs: Enhance educational and vocational training opportunities to upskill middle-class individuals and make them more competitive in the job market.
- Small business support: Establish programs to provide financial and technical assistance to small businesses, enabling them to thrive and create employment opportunities for the middle class.
- Transportation accessibility: Improve transportation infrastructure, such as expanding public transportation networks, to link affordable housing areas with job centers.
- Reduced cost of living: Explore measures to alleviate the burden of high living costs, such as reducing utility bills, property taxes, and healthcare expenses.
- Investment in job creation: Encourage public-private partnerships to attract companies and industries that can create middle-class jobs.
- Revitalization of rural areas: Develop strategies to promote economic growth and job opportunities in rural regions, thereby providing alternatives for the middle class to live and work outside urban areas.
- Support for entrepreneurship: Offer resources and incubator programs to assist middle-class individuals in starting their own businesses and driving economic development.
- Quality public services: Ensure the provision of quality healthcare, education, and public amenities to make the state an attractive place for the middle class to reside and invest in.

Innovations to reduce the loss of middle-class people in New York state:

- Affordable Housing Apps: Mobile applications that connect renters with affordable housing options, helping to navigate the rising housing costs and find more budget-friendly options.
- Middle-Class Job Placement Platforms: Online platforms or job matching services that specifically cater to middle-class job seekers, connecting them with industries and sectors with job opportunities in New York state.
- Mobility as a Service (MaaS): Innovative transportation solutions that integrate public transportation, ridesharing, and other mobility options into a single platform, making transportation more convenient and affordable for the middle class.
- Community Wealth Building Programs: Initiatives that support community ownership and cooperative models, providing middle-class individuals/families with the opportunity to build wealth through shared ownership of businesses or housing.
- Skill-sharing Platforms: Online platforms that facilitate the exchange of skills and services among community members. This can help individuals access services they may need at a lower cost, reducing financial strain on the middle class.
- Entrepreneurship Incubators: Programs that provide resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities for middle-class entrepreneurs, helping them start and grow their own businesses in New York state.
- Telecommuting Support: Policies and initiatives that encourage remote work or flexible work arrangements, enabling middle-class individuals to work from home, reduce transportation costs, and commute times.
- Housing Cooperatives: Creating more opportunities for the middle class to participate in cooperative housing models, where residents collectively own and manage the property, providing more affordable homeownership options.
- Green Job Training Programs: Education and training programs focused on preparing the middle class for jobs in sustainable industries and sectors, taking advantage of clean energy and environmental initiatives.
- Cottage Industry Promotion: Providing support and resources to individuals interested in starting small-scale businesses from their homes, such as crafts, homemade food products, or specialized services, to generate additional income for the middle class.

11. Municipal Bonds for Infrastructure: Utilizing municipal bonds to finance infrastructure projects that create jobs and improve public transportation, allowing for economic growth and increased opportunities for the middle class.
12. Transit-Oriented Development: Encouraging the development of affordable housing, small businesses, and community amenities near public transportation hubs, making it more accessible for the middle class and reducing transportation costs.
13. Universal Basic Income Pilot Programs: Testing the implementation of a universal basic income, where every citizen is provided with a guaranteed income, reducing financial stress and inequality for the middle class.
14. Skills Re-training Initiatives: Programs that offer re-training opportunities for middle-class individuals who may have been displaced from industries experiencing job losses, providing them with the skills necessary for employment in growing sectors.
15. Cooperative Childcare Services: Establishing cooperatively owned childcare centers that provide affordable, high-quality childcare services for middle-class families, reducing the financial burden of childcare expenses.

Appendix 3 – Solutions and innovations to stop the decline in business competitiveness in New York State

Solutions to the decline in business competitiveness in New York state:

1. Enhance access to capital for small businesses through government grants or low-interest loans.
2. Invest in workforce development programs to align the skills of the workforce with industry demands.
3. Strengthen partnerships between businesses and educational institutions to provide relevant job training and internships.
4. Streamline regulations and reduce bureaucratic red tape to make it easier for businesses to operate.
5. Promote innovation and entrepreneurship by providing tax incentives and support for research and development activities.
6. Improve transportation infrastructure to facilitate the movement of goods and reduce logistical costs for businesses.
7. Develop marketing and promotional campaigns to attract businesses from other states and countries.
8. Enhance access to affordable healthcare options for business owners and their employees.
9. Foster collaboration between businesses through the creation of industry clusters and business associations.
10. Address high energy costs by promoting renewable energy solutions and providing incentives for energy-efficient practices.

Innovations to stop the decline in business competitiveness in New York state:

- Development of new technologies or products that can increase business competitiveness
- Introduction of new services that can enhance the business environment and support for small businesses¹²⁵⁴⁷¹
- Creation of unique and innovative experiences for customers to attract businesses and drive economic growth¹²⁵⁴⁷¹
- Implement new policies or regulations to address healthcare challenges faced by businesses and employees¹²⁵⁴⁷¹
- Adopt renewable energy solutions to reduce energy costs for businesses and promote sustainability¹²⁵⁴⁷¹
- Integration of successful initiatives from other states or countries to stimulate economic growth and improve business competitiveness¹²⁵⁴⁷¹
- Establishment of new business associations or industry clusters to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among businesses in New York state.

Appendix 4 – Solutions and innovations to stop the negative effects of high taxes in New York State

Solutions to stop the negative effects of high taxes in New York:

- Reduce spending: Identifying areas of unnecessary expenditures and implementing cost-cutting measures can help reduce the burden on taxpayers.
- Improve tax collection: Strengthening tax enforcement and increasing penalties for tax evasion would result in higher revenue collection.
- Increase tax exemptions and deductions: Providing more exemptions and deductions to individuals and businesses can help alleviate the impact of high taxes.
- Encourage business growth: Implement policies and incentives to attract new businesses and retain existing ones, leading to an increase in tax revenue.
- Support small businesses: Provide assistance, such as tax breaks and grants, to small businesses to help them thrive and contribute to the economy.
- Consolidate and streamline government services: By reducing redundancy and bureaucracy, significant cost savings can be achieved, reducing the need for increased taxes.
- Implement a progressive tax system: Adjusting tax brackets and rates based on income levels can make the tax burden more equitable across different socioeconomic groups.
- Invest in education: By improving the quality of public education, individuals would be better equipped for higher-paying jobs, resulting in increased tax revenue.
- Promote tourism: Enhancing tourism efforts can stimulate economic growth, increase job opportunities, and generate additional tax revenue.
- Attract high-net-worth individuals: Encourage wealthy individuals to reside in New York by offering competitive tax rates for high-income earners, bolstering the state's revenue base.

Innovations to stop the negative effect of high taxes in New York:

1. Tax credits or incentives for affordable housing development to help offset the increased cost of living.
2. Introduction of tax breaks for small businesses to encourage growth and job creation.
3. Implementation of a progressive tax system that places a greater burden on high-income individuals and reduces the impact on low-income residents.
4. Creation of specialized tax incentives for industries disproportionately affected by high taxes, such as technology or manufacturing sectors.
5. Implementation of transparent and accountable spending practices to ensure tax revenue is used efficiently and effectively.
6. Adoption of regional or localized tax policies that take into account varying affordability concerns within different areas of the state.
7. Development of initiatives to attract and retain high-income taxpayers, such as targeted tax breaks or investment opportunities.
8. Exploration of alternative revenue sources, such as a tax on luxury goods or services, to lessen the burden on residents and businesses.
9. Implementation of tax education programs to promote a better understanding of how taxes are used and their impact on the economy.
10. Introduction of tax relief programs for lower and middle-income individuals through increased tax exemptions and deductions.
11. Creation of funding programs to support businesses in adapting to higher tax rates, such as technology or workforce development grants.
12. Introduction of tax credits or incentives for businesses that implement environmentally friendly practices or contribute to sustainable development.
13. Establishment of task forces or committees to regularly review and assess the impact of high taxes on businesses and job growth.
14. Exploration of public-private partnerships to co-finance infrastructure projects and reduce the reliance on taxpayer funding.
15. Introduction of online platforms or tools to simplify the tax filing process and reduce the administrative burden on individuals and businesses.

Appendix 5 – Solutions and innovations to stop the problem of a dirty state suffering from too much garbage and littering.

Solution to the problem of a dirty state suffering from too much garbage and littering:

1. Implement stricter penalties for littering and enforce them effectively.
2. Increase public awareness campaigns to educate people about the negative impacts of littering.
3. Improve garbage collection and disposal systems to ensure timely and efficient waste management.
4. Install more public trash bins in high-traffic areas to encourage proper disposal of waste.
5. Establish community cleanup initiatives where volunteers can help clean up public spaces regularly.
6. Implement recycling programs and increase access to recycling facilities across the state.
7. Encourage businesses and organizations to adopt sustainable practices and reduce waste generation.
8. Increase funding for cleanup and maintenance of public spaces to keep them clean.
9. Implement a deposit system on beverage containers to incentivize recycling.
10. Collaborate with schools to educate students on the importance of cleanliness and waste reduction.

Innovations to the problem of a dirty state suffering from too much garbage and littering

1. Smart Litter Bins: These bins are equipped with sensors that detect when the bin is full, alerting waste management teams to empty them. This reduces overflow and littering.
2. Litter Cameras: Installing high-tech cameras that can capture images of individuals littering and issue fines automatically. This technology can act as a deterrent and improve enforcement efforts.
3. Recycling Reward Programs: Incentivizing individuals to recycle by implementing a rewards system. Points or discounts could be given for every item recycled, encouraging participation and reducing waste.
4. Mobile Recycling Stations: Creating mobile recycling stations that can be brought to events, festivals, or community gatherings. This ensures that recycling is accessible to all, even in areas without permanent recycling facilities.
5. Litter-Eating Robots: Robotic devices designed to collect and remove litter from public spaces. These robots can navigate autonomously, collecting trash and contributing to cleaner environments.
6. Celebrity and Social Media Campaigns: Collaborating with influential figures and social media platforms to launch campaigns that raise awareness about the impacts of littering and the importance of waste reduction. This can effectively reach wider audiences and change attitudes.
7. Bottle Deposit System: Implementing a deposit system on beverage containers, whereby a small deposit is required when purchasing a drink and refunded when the container is returned. This incentivizes recycling and reduces litter, as people are more likely to return containers for the deposit.
8. Eco-Brick Building: Promoting the use of eco-bricks, which are plastic bottles filled with non-biodegradable waste such as plastics and wrappers. These bricks can be used for construction purposes, reducing waste and providing an alternative building material.
9. Litter Patrol Apps: Developing smartphone apps that allow individuals to report litter hotspots and provide real-time information to waste management teams. This increases community involvement and allows for more targeted cleanup efforts.
10. Green Packaging Innovation: Encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable packaging practices, such as biodegradable or compostable materials, to reduce waste generation and litter.
11. Data Analytics for Targeted Strategies: Utilizing data analytics to identify areas with high littering rates and specific litter sources. This information can be used to develop targeted strategies, focusing enforcement efforts and education campaigns where they are most needed.
12. Augmented Reality Games: Creating interactive games or apps that promote litter cleanup and waste reduction. This engages users in a fun and educational way, encouraging positive behavioral changes.

Appendix 6 – Solutions and innovations to stop the problem of a bad image for New York, based upon the media coverage of what is happening in New York

Solution to the problem of a bad image for New York, based upon the media coverage of what is happening in New York:

1. Promoting positive stories: Develop and implement a comprehensive PR campaign highlighting successful initiatives, innovative programs, and positive achievements within the state.
2. Engaging with the media: Establish regular communication channels with media outlets to facilitate accurate reporting of New York's progress and achievements.
3. Collaborating with influencers: Engage with influential individuals within various industries to promote the positive aspects of New York and counteract negative portrayals.
4. Encouraging community involvement: Promote community events, volunteer opportunities, and initiatives focused on addressing local issues, thus highlighting the efforts being made to improve the state.
5. Strengthening education: Enhance educational programs to address specific challenges faced by New Yorkers, such as financial literacy, healthcare awareness, and homelessness prevention.
6. Partnering with local businesses: Collaborate with businesses to implement sustainable practices, create job opportunities, and support local economic growth.
7. Prioritizing public safety: Increase funding for law enforcement agencies, provide advanced training programs, and promote community policing to enhance safety and reduce crime rates.
8. Improving infrastructure: Invest in upgrading transportation, communication, and utility systems to enhance efficiency and quality of life for residents, thus boosting the overall image of the state.
9. Fostering cultural diversity: Celebrate and embrace the state's diverse population by organizing multicultural events and festivals, fostering inclusivity, and combating discrimination.
10. Developing tourism initiatives: Invest in marketing campaigns to highlight New York's unique attractions and landmarks, such as historical sites, natural wonders, and cultural experiences.

Innovations to the problem of a bad image for New York, based upon the media coverage of what is happening in New York:

1. Media engagement and promotion:
 - Launching a digital platform that features positive stories and achievements of New York residents, businesses, and organizations.
 - Implementing a media training program for state officials and stakeholders to effectively engage with the media and promote positive aspects of the state.
2. Collaboration and partnerships:
 - Creating a brand ambassador program where influential individuals are recruited to promote New York's positive image through their networks and social media platforms.

- Establishing partnerships with local businesses to offer exclusive promotions and experiences to visitors, encouraging economic growth and showcasing the state's vibrant offerings.
3. Community involvement and education:
- Implementing a community task force that works with local residents to address specific issues and improve the state's image from a grassroots level.
 - Developing an educational curriculum that highlights the unique challenges faced by different communities within New York, promoting understanding and inclusivity.
4. Public safety and infrastructure:
- Launching a mobile app that allows citizens to report safety concerns and issues directly to law enforcement, improving response time and enhancing public safety.
 - Investing in sustainable infrastructure projects that prioritize walkability, cycling, and public transportation, promoting a greener and more livable environment.
5. Cultural diversity and inclusivity:
- Establishing a council on cultural diversity and inclusion that works with communities across the state to celebrate and showcase diverse cultural traditions and events.
 - Launching an awareness campaign that challenges stereotypes and prejudices, promoting a more inclusive and accepting society.
6. Tourism promotion:
- Developing immersive virtual reality experiences that allow potential tourists to explore New York's attractions from the comfort of their homes, enticing them to visit in person.
 - Creating themed tourism packages that highlight unique aspects of New York, such as food and beverage, arts and culture, or outdoor adventures, offering tailored experiences to different types of travelers.

Appendix 7 – The fully summarized second iteration for street crime, provided by Idea Coach, and incorporated into the Idea Book for the set of studies.

Topic: New York State has a problem with street crime.

Please suggest 10 solutions to substantially reduce street crime.

For each solution, do the following:

1. Give the solution a simple title
2. Describe the solution... what to do
3. Provide at least five steps, in the correct order, so that following these steps produces a really good solution with a high chance to reduce street crime.
4. For each solution, give a sense of the effectiveness of the solution. Use this Scale Solution Will Probably Work; Solution May Work; Solution May Not Work; Solution Will Probably Not Work
5. For each solution, give the expected cost of the solution. Use this scale. Solution will be expensive; Solution will incur a moderate cost. Solution will incur a low cost. Solution will cost almost nothing.
6. For each solution give the expected timeline to implement the solution. Use this scale. The solution will be implemented quickly. The solution will be implemented slowly. Solution may never be implemented.
7. For each solution, give the expected reaction of the public. Use this scale. The public will be thrilled with the solution. The public may accept the solution. The public may complain about the solution. The public will reject the solution

Topic Questions:

Solution 1: Increase police presence in high crime areas

Identify high crime areas through crime statistics and citizen reports.

Allocate additional police officers to patrol these areas.

Increase the frequency and duration of patrol shifts in these areas.

Implement community policing strategies to build trust and cooperation between police and residents.

Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of increased police presence through crime rate reductions and community feedback.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work.

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 2: Implement surveillance systems in public spaces

Identify high crime areas where surveillance systems will be most effective.

Install CCTV cameras and other surveillance devices in strategic locations.

Monitor and record activities in these areas using trained personnel.

Share footage and evidence with law enforcement agencies to aid in investigations.

Regularly maintain and update the surveillance systems to ensure their effectiveness.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work.

Cost: Solution will be expensive.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 3: Improve street lighting in high crime areas

Assess the lighting conditions in high crime areas to identify areas in need of improvement.

Upgrade existing streetlights or install new ones to provide brighter and more consistent lighting.

Ensure proper maintenance of streetlights to prevent outages.

Regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of improved street lighting on crime rates.

Involve local communities in reporting and addressing any issues related to street lighting.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work.

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 4: Increase funding for crime prevention programs and services

Assess current funding levels for crime prevention programs and services.

Allocate additional resources to enhance existing programs and implement new initiatives.

Collaborate with community organizations and nonprofits to provide support and resources.

Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these programs regularly.

Continuously adjust the funding allocation based on the identified needs and effectiveness.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work.

Cost: Solution will be expensive.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 5: Strengthen community engagement and neighborhood watch programs

Establish or enhance neighborhood watch programs in high crime areas.

Encourage community members to report suspicious activities and work closely with law enforcement.

Organize regular meetings and events to promote community bonding and crime prevention knowledge-sharing.

Provide training and resources to neighborhood watch participants to enhance their effectiveness.

Continuously evaluate the impact of community engagement initiatives through crime rate reductions and feedback from residents.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work.

Cost: Solution will incur a low cost.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 6: Enhance rehabilitation and reintegration programs for offenders

Evaluate existing rehabilitation and reintegration programs for effectiveness.

Invest in expanding and improving programs focused on education, skill development, and mental health support for offenders.

Collaborate with employers and educational institutions to create opportunities for reintegration.

Monitor and track the progress and outcomes of individuals participating in these programs.

Continuously adapt and enhance these programs based on research and best practices.

Effectiveness: Solution May Work.

Cost: Solution will incur a moderate cost.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 7: Improve access to quality education and after-school programs

Identify areas with limited access to quality education and after-school programs.

Invest in improving school infrastructure, resources, and teacher training.

Provide funding for after-school programs, including sports, arts, and mentoring.

Collaborate with community organizations and stakeholders to create opportunities for educational enrichment.

Monitor academic progress and crime rate reductions in areas where these initiatives are implemented.

Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work.

Cost: Solution will be expensive.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 8: Increase penalties for repeat offenders

Review current criminal justice policies and sentencing guidelines.

Advocate for legislation that increases penalties for individuals with a history of repeat offenses.

Establish a system to track repeat offenders and ensure appropriate sentencing.

Continuously evaluate the impact of increased penalties on recidivism rates and crime reduction.

Regularly update and improve sentencing guidelines based on research and evidence.

Effectiveness: Solution May Not Work.

Cost: Solution will incur a low cost.

Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.

Public Reaction: The public may complain about the solution.

Solution 9: Expand mental health services and resources

Assess the current availability and accessibility of mental health services in high crime areas.
Invest in expanding mental health clinics, counseling services, and crisis intervention teams.
Collaborate with healthcare providers, community organizations, and nonprofits to enhance mental health support.
Implement outreach campaigns to reduce stigma surrounding mental health and encourage seeking help.
Continuously evaluate the impact of expanded mental health services on crime rates and community well-being.
Effectiveness: Solution Will Probably Work.
Cost: Solution will be expensive.
Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.
Public Reaction: The public may accept the solution.

Solution 10: Improve access to affordable housing and job opportunities
Conduct an assessment of the availability and affordability of housing in high crime areas.
Invest in affordable housing initiatives and collaborate with developers and nonprofit organizations.
Promote economic development and job creation in these areas through partnerships with businesses and workforce training programs.
Implement supportive services like financial literacy education and job placement assistance.
Monitor improvements in housing and employment opportunities, along with corresponding crime rate reductions.
Effectiveness: Solution May Work.
Cost: Solution will be expensive.
Timeline: Solution will be implemented slowly.
Public Reaction: The public may complain about the solution.

Key Ideas

1. Increasing police presence in high crime areas
2. Implementing surveillance systems in public spaces
3. Improving street lighting in high crime areas
4. Increasing funding for crime prevention programs and services
5. Strengthening community engagement and neighborhood watch programs
6. Enhancing rehabilitation and reintegration programs for offenders
7. Improving access to quality education and after-school programs
8. Increasing penalties for repeat offenders
9. Expanding mental health services and resources
10. Improving access to affordable housing and job opportunities

Themes

Theme 1: Increasing Law Enforcement Presence and Surveillance

1. Increasing police presence in high crime areas
2. Implementing surveillance systems in public spaces

Theme 2: Enhancing Crime Prevention Programs and Community Engagement

3. Improving street lighting in high crime areas
4. Increasing funding for crime prevention programs and services
5. Strengthening community engagement and neighborhood watch programs

Theme 3: Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders

6. Enhancing rehabilitation and reintegration programs for offenders

Theme 4: Improving Education and After-School Programs

7. Improving access to quality education and after-school programs

Theme 5: Stricter Penalties and Consequences

8. Increasing penalties for repeat offenders

Theme 6: Mental Health Support and Resources

9. Expanding mental health services and resources

Theme 7: Access to Housing and Job Opportunities

10. Improving access to affordable housing and job opportunities

Perspectives

Theme 1: Increasing Law Enforcement Presence and Surveillance

Plus:

- Increased police presence can deter criminal activity and improve response times to emergencies.
- Surveillance systems can provide valuable evidence for solving crime and identifying suspects.

Minus:

- There might be concerns about invasion of privacy with increased surveillance in public spaces.
- Over-policing in certain communities can lead to increased tension and mistrust between law enforcement and residents.

Interesting:

- The use of technology, such as facial recognition software, can greatly enhance the effectiveness of surveillance systems.

Theme 2: Enhancing Crime Prevention Programs and Community Engagement

Plus:

- Improved street lighting can increase visibility and help deter potential criminals.
- Funding for crime prevention programs can provide resources for education, intervention, and support.
- Community engagement and neighborhood watch programs promote a sense of shared responsibility and can lead to improved safety.

Minus:

- Increased funding for crime prevention programs might require reallocating resources from other areas.
- Some communities may have limited resources or infrastructure to implement effective crime prevention programs.

Interesting:

- Community engagement programs can help socialize individuals and provide a support network that prevents crime.

Theme 3: Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders

Plus:

- Enhanced rehabilitation programs can reduce recidivism rates and promote successful reintegration into society.
- Providing support for offenders can address underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior.

Minus:

- Rehabilitation programs can be costly to implement and maintain.
- Some individuals may be resistant to rehabilitation efforts and may not fully participate or benefit from these programs.

Interesting:

- Restorative justice practices, such as mediation and community service, can help offenders make amends and repair harm caused by their actions.

Theme 4: Improving Education and After-School Programs

Plus:

- Access to quality education can provide individuals with the skills and knowledge to pursue legitimate opportunities and avoid crime.
- After-school programs can provide a safe and productive environment for youth, reducing the risk of involvement in criminal activities.

Minus:

- Improving education and after-school programs can be resource-intensive and require significant funding.
- There may be challenges in ensuring equal access to quality education and after-school programs for all communities.

Interesting:

- Targeted educational programs can be designed to address specific risk factors associated with criminal behavior, such as truancy or low literacy rates.

Theme 5: Stricter Penalties and Consequences

Plus:

- Stricter penalties can act as a deterrent and discourage individuals from engaging in criminal behavior.
- Harsher consequences can provide a sense of justice for victims and their families.

Minus:

- Stricter penalties may disproportionately affect certain communities, such as minority groups or low-income individuals.
- An emphasis solely on punishment may not address the root causes of crime and could lead to a revolving door of recidivism.

Interesting:

- The effectiveness of stricter penalties in reducing crime is a topic of ongoing debate among criminologists and policymakers.

Theme 6: Mental Health Support and Resources

Plus:

- Expanding mental health services can address underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior.
- Providing support and resources for individuals with mental health issues can reduce the likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system.

Minus:

- Sufficient funding and resources are needed to implement and sustain comprehensive mental health support programs.
- Stigma and lack of awareness surrounding mental health issues may hinder individuals from seeking help.

Interesting:

- Co-occurring disorders, where individuals have both mental health and substance use issues, often require integrated treatment approaches.

Theme 7: Access to Housing and Job Opportunities

Plus:

- Access to affordable housing and job opportunities can provide individuals with stability and legitimate means of income.
- Providing support in these areas can reduce the potential for involvement in criminal activities, such as theft or drug trade.

Minus:

- Addressing issues of housing affordability and job opportunities may require cooperation from multiple sectors and stakeholders.
- Socio-economic disparities can present barriers to equal access to housing and job opportunities.

Interesting:

- Programs that focus on transitional housing and job training can

What is missing

1. The underlying causes of crime in high crime areas are not addressed in the topic questions. It would be helpful to explore factors such as poverty, inequality, drug abuse, and gang activity to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issue.
2. The potential limitations and drawbacks of each solution are not discussed. It would be beneficial to consider any unintended consequences, potential conflicts with civil liberties, or concerns about over-policing that may arise from implementing these solutions.
3. The societal impact and long-term implications of the proposed solutions are not thoroughly examined. It would be valuable to explore how these solutions may affect community trust, the criminal justice system, and the overall well-being of residents in high crime areas.
4. Alternative perspectives and opinions are not incorporated. It would be beneficial to consider input from experts, community leaders, and residents who may have different viewpoints on the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed solutions.
5. The interplay between the proposed solutions and existing crime prevention efforts or social programs is not explored. It would be important to consider how these solutions can complement or integrate with existing initiatives to maximize their impact and avoid duplication.
6. The feasibility and practicality of implementing the proposed solutions are not thoroughly evaluated. It would be helpful to assess the logistical challenges, resource requirements, and potential barriers to implementation for each solution.
7. The potential role of technology and innovation in addressing crime in high crime areas is not discussed. It would be interesting to explore how advancements in surveillance technology, data analytics, or predictive policing strategies could contribute to crime prevention efforts.
8. The potential influence of external factors, such as systemic issues, policy changes, or economic conditions, on crime rates in high crime areas is not examined. It would be valuable to consider how larger societal factors may impact the effectiveness of the proposed solutions.
9. The importance of collaboration and engagement with various stakeholders, including community members, law enforcement, local government, and social service organizations, is not emphasized. It would be beneficial to explore how partnerships and collective efforts can enhance the effectiveness of the proposed solutions.
10. The potential impact of the criminal justice system and its policies on crime rates is not thoroughly discussed. It would be useful to examine the role of police practices, sentencing guidelines, and rehabilitation programs in addressing crime in high crime areas.

Alternative Viewpoints

Alternative viewpoints on the topic questions could include:

- Solution 1: Increase police presence in high crime areas

Alternative viewpoint: Some individuals may argue that increasing police presence in high crime areas may lead to increased police brutality and mistrust between law enforcement and the community. They may propose focusing on community-led initiatives and addressing the root causes of crime instead.

- Solution 2: Implement surveillance systems in public spaces

Alternative viewpoint: Privacy advocates may argue that implementing surveillance systems in public spaces infringes on individuals' right to privacy. They may propose alternative solutions that involve community engagement and crime prevention strategies that rely less on constant monitoring and surveillance.

- Solution 3: Improve street lighting in high crime areas

Alternative viewpoint: Critics may argue that improving street lighting alone may not effectively reduce crime rates. They may propose addressing other underlying factors such as socioeconomic inequality, lack of educational opportunities, and substance abuse, which can contribute to criminal activity.

- Solution 4: Increase funding for crime prevention programs and services

Alternative viewpoint: Some individuals may argue that increasing funding for crime prevention programs and services may not be a sustainable solution. They may propose focusing on addressing systemic issues such as poverty, education, and social inequality to prevent crime in the long term.

- Solution 5: Strengthen community engagement and neighborhood watch programs

Alternative viewpoint: Skeptics may argue that relying on community engagement and neighborhood watch programs may lead to vigilantism and community divisions. They may propose alternative solutions that involve police accountability, community-led restorative justice initiatives, and rebuilding trust between law enforcement and the community.

- Solution 6: Enhance rehabilitation and reintegration programs for offenders

Alternative viewpoint: Some individuals may argue that focusing on rehabilitation may not prioritize the safety and well-being of victims and the broader community. They may propose a more punitive approach to criminal justice that prioritizes longer sentences and stricter supervision of offenders.

- Solution 7: Improve access to quality education and after-school programs

Alternative viewpoint: Critics may argue that improving access to education and after-school programs may not directly address the root causes of crime. They may propose focusing on economic development and job creation as a more effective way to address criminal behavior.

- Solution 8: Increase penalties for repeat offenders

Alternative viewpoint: Opponents may argue that increasing penalties for repeat offenders may further burden an already overcrowded criminal justice system without effectively reducing recidivism rates. They may propose alternative solutions such as restorative justice practices and diversion programs.

- Solution 9: Expand mental health services and resources

Alternative viewpoint: Some individuals may argue that expanding mental health services should not be solely focused on high crime areas, as mental health issues can affect communities as a whole. They may propose a comprehensive approach to mental health that encompasses all communities.

- Solution 10: Improve access to affordable housing and job opportunities

Alternative viewpoint: Critics may argue that simply providing affordable housing and job opportunities may not address the complex systemic factors that contribute to crime. They may propose a more holistic approach that involves comprehensive community development and addressing social and economic inequities.

Interested Audiences

1. Law enforcement agencies: Police departments, sheriff's offices, and other law enforcement agencies will be highly interested in these topic questions as they are directly involved in crime prevention and maintaining public safety. They will be interested in exploring solutions that can effectively reduce crime and improve community trust.
2. Government officials: Elected officials, policymakers, and government agencies responsible for public safety will be keenly interested in these topic questions. They are responsible for allocating resources, creating legislation, and implementing policies to address crime and ensure the well-being of their constituents.
3. Community organizations and nonprofit groups: Organizations that work directly with communities affected by crime, such as neighborhood associations, community centers, and nonprofits focusing on crime prevention, will find these topic questions relevant. They are invested in finding effective strategies to create safer neighborhoods and support community members.

4. Citizens and residents: People living in high crime areas or concerned about security and crime prevention in their communities will have a personal interest in these topic questions. They may be interested in understanding potential solutions, their effectiveness, and the impact they can have on their safety and quality of life.
5. Academics and researchers: Researchers and academics studying criminology, sociology, public policy, and related fields will be interested in these topic questions. They aim to contribute to the body of knowledge surrounding crime prevention, evaluate the effectiveness of different solutions, and identify best practices for impact.
6. Business owners and economic development agencies: Business owners, entrepreneurs, and economic development agencies may have an interest in these topic questions. They have a stake in creating safer environments to attract customers, employees, and investment. They may also be interested in solutions related to job creation and economic opportunities.

Overall, these topic questions have a broad appeal to various stakeholders invested in community safety, crime prevention, and the well-being of individuals and neighborhoods affected by crime.

Opposing Audiences

1. Police unions: Increased police presence may require reallocating resources and potentially increasing officers' workload, which could be met with resistance from police unions concerned about officer burnout and job security.
2. Civil liberty advocates: Implementing surveillance systems in public spaces raises concerns about privacy and the potential for abuse of surveillance technology, leading civil liberty advocates to oppose the topic.
3. Advocates for criminal justice reform: Increasing penalties for repeat offenders may be seen as punitive rather than rehabilitative, contradicting the principles of criminal justice reform that focus on addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior.
4. Budget-conscious individuals or groups: Solutions that involve increased funding, such as expanding crime prevention programs or improving access to mental health services, may face opposition from those concerned about the financial impact and the allocation of resources away from other areas.
5. NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) residents: Improving access to affordable housing and job opportunities in high crime areas may be met with resistance from residents in nearby communities who may fear potential increased crime spillover into their neighborhoods.

Innovations

1. Crime prediction software: Using advanced algorithms and data analytics to predict crime hotspots and allocate law enforcement resources effectively.
2. Smart surveillance systems: Implementing AI-powered surveillance systems that can detect suspicious activities and notify authorities in real-time.
3. Virtual reality crime prevention programs: Utilizing virtual reality technology to simulate real-life crime scenarios and teach individuals how to react and prevent criminal acts.
4. Community-based smartphone apps: Developing mobile applications that allow community members to report any suspicious activities directly to the police and receive real-time updates on crime reports in their area.
5. Rehabilitation through virtual reality: Using virtual reality therapy to help offenders empathize with their victims and rehabilitate by providing them with a perspective they may not have had otherwise.
6. Drone surveillance: Implementing drone technology for surveillance purposes, particularly in remote or hard-to-reach areas, aiding law enforcement in monitoring and preventing criminal activities.
7. AI-powered education platforms: Developing personalized learning platforms that use artificial intelligence to adapt educational content to each student's needs and learning style, improving access to quality education for all.
8. Progressive sentencing programs: Implementing progressive sentencing programs that focus on addressing the root causes of criminal behavior, such as addiction or mental health issues, rather than purely punitive measures.
9. Mental health chatbots: Creating AI-powered chatbots that provide mental health support and resources, offering immediate assistance to individuals experiencing distress.
10. Community redevelopment initiatives: Implementing comprehensive community redevelopment programs that address both housing and job opportunities, with a focus on revitalizing neighborhoods to provide safe and stable environments for residents.