

› › › LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

IMPROVING MY COMMUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL ACTION

OBJECTIVES:

- Students understand the dynamics of cultural power that limit or enhance access and success for some groups and identify personal next steps for combating injustice, bigotry and racism in classrooms, schools and communities.
- Students deliver presentations that convey clear and distinct perspectives and solid reasoning.
(California Content Standards for English-Language Arts, Grades 9-12, Listening and Speaking Strategies Standard 1.0)

ACTIVITY:

Students reflect on and discuss social justice issues they became aware of as a result of their Museum of Tolerance visit and on-going class work.

Ask students to:

- Identify 1-3 critical social justice issues in their school/community that they would like to address.
- Research and collect evidence about a condition/policy/practice that has led to inequity in the school/community.
- Synthesize the information from their research and use the synthesized information to garner the support and advocacy of others to help resolve the issue(s).
- Collect signatures for a specific proposed change or intervention to the current inequity.
- Plan a presentation for key decision-makers, which includes a summary of their evidence/findings, proposed action (stated in a direct and succinct manner) and collected signatures supporting the proposed action.
- Present their proposal for change and related information to a key decision-making group (student council, site/district/community administrators or officials).

PRODUCT/APPLICATION:

Students engage in individual or small/large group reflection and discussion of specific instances of bias/discrimination that they observe in their immediate environments. Students identify key issues to address. Students collect evidence of the current condition(s). Students propose a solution and take next steps to effect their proposed solution. Students affirm the power of social action to interrupt inequity and injustice.

EXTENSION:

Students record their process and progress. Students publish the story of their progress in an appropriate journal, magazine or other media source.



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