

A Lesson in Exploring the Other:

A Native view of Surviving Columbus - Examining the Viewpoint of Others

Learning Objective: Students will recognize institutional racism within the educational system and utilize anti-racist understanding in selecting lessons for peer teaching.

Overview of the lesson: Several activities are used to prepare the students for the selection of lessons for peer teaching. The Talking Rock lesson is modeled by the instructor to demonstrate the power of symbols, such as those used by native communities. In addition to learning about clay, pictographs, and petroglyphs; the students will gain an understanding of meaningful visual images that extend the boundaries of a dominant language or culture.

Teaching Strategies:

1. Students will examine examples of racism within educational textbooks. (Sample of State textbook and it's reference to Native tribes)
2. Students will read a list of American Indian 'do's' and don'ts' (Oyate) when teaching and they will discuss how this list can apply to all racial and diverse groups.
3. A powerpoint presentation will be shown of the Pueblo workshop that I attended in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the summer of 2010.
4. Students will review Native American History, working in groups using a quiz Deck with Knowledge cards
5. Students will be Introduced to "The Talking Rock," a lesson developed by Earnest Whiteman (Native artist) and a Little Falls Art Teacher. This lesson introduces the learner to pictographs and petroglyphs and the power of the symbol by using clay from the earth we all share.

Final Activity:

After the projects are fired, the student will demonstrate the power of symbols by sharing their individual stories to the class. Sitting in a circle, each student will present their "Talking Rock" and use this rock to talk about themselves and their world view.

Students will work in groups to discuss and brainstorm art lessons that that may exclude students based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, economics, and other aspects of privilege.

Assessment:

Students will apply anti-racist learning and insights in selecting and presenting lessons to the class. A final journaling activity will ask students to describe how their lesson incorporated anti-racist pedagogy.