

Social Justice Roundtable Discussion Project

Ground Rules for Roundtable Discussion:

1. Listen actively: respect others when they're talking.
2. Speak from your own experience: use "I" statements.
3. Don't be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but focus on the ideas, and avoid personal attacks.
4. Participate to the fullest of your ability.
5. Be conscious of your body language and nonverbal responses.
6. The goal is not to agree: it's to gain a deeper understanding.

MEETING ONE

Agenda

I. Introductions

- A. Each person should take a few seconds to share: share your name, where you are from, and one thing you are passionate about.
- B. Introductory Questions
 - a. What does the term "social justice" mean to you?
 - b. What do you think it means to be an "advocate" for something or to advocate for something?

II. Roundtable Discussion

A. Video Clip

- a. Jane Elliot's Brown Eyes Blue Eyes Experiment with Third Graders
<https://youtu.be/oGvoXeXCoUY>

B. Roundtable Discussion Questions

- a. What is your initial reaction to the video?
- b. What do you think the experiment was trying to highlight (or show)?
- c. What kind of comparisons can be drawn between the brown eyes/blue eyes experiment and the world we live in today?
- d. Where do you believe we get our ideas and understanding about race? Do you believe media, social media, television, or books has anything to do with it?
- e. How can we challenge the misconceptions people have about race in America? What do you think we need to do this? How can we go about doing this?

C. Video Clip

- a. Selma Victory Scene
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnjiWo6dYKA>

D. Roundtable Discussion Questions

- a. What were your initial impressions of that clip?
- b. Could you find any similarities between what is currently happening in our country and what is being addressed in the clip?
- c. The specific issue being addressed in this clip was the right to vote for black people. What kind of issues do you believe we are facing as a country today?

- d. In this scene, Lyndon Johnson's character says, "At times, history and fate meet at a single time, in a single place...in Selma, Alabama, there long - suffering men and women peacefully protested the denial of their rights as Americans..." Many people have heard the phrase, "History will repeat itself if we do not learn from it." Do you agree or disagree with that statement? How have we seen history repeat itself over the years? What do you think can be done to keep history from repeating itself?
- e. Final takeaways from the clip?

III. Conclusion

Wrap up the conversation, highlight major takeaways from the conversation, thank students for their participation.

MEETING TWO

Agenda

I. Introduction

- A. Recap on last meeting: major thoughts and ideas
- B. Review ground rules for discussion if necessary

II. Roundtable Discussion

A. Video Clip-“Social Justice for All”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZS0A0OBFeE>

B. Roundtable Discussion Questions

- a. What are your initial impressions after watching this clip?
- b. The clip mentions several other movements that came after the Civil Rights Movement including, the Anti-war Movement, the Women’s Movement, Environmental Movement, etc.
 - i. What other movements can you name?
 - ii. Why do you think these movements are important to our history and future?
 - iii. And how do you think these movements got started?
- c. How do you think you can effectuate change?

III. Conclusion

Wrap up the conversation. Ask them, between the end of this meeting and the meeting for the next week, to think back to what they said they were passionate about and what we discussed regarding advocacy, and to ask themselves the following question, **“If I had to advocate for this, how would I go about doing so?”**

MEETING THREE

Agenda

I. Introduction

II. Roundtable Discussion

A. Video Clip #1: The Future is Ours: Student Activism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZpLNnJNulo>

B. Roundtable Discussion Questions

- a. Initial impressions/thoughts/comments
- b. Over the years social media has become the go-to place for people looking to have their voice heard. How do you feel about that? Do you think it is helpful? What do you think people did before social media?
 - i. In recent days there has been criticism regarding people who use social media to post about issues because it seems “trendy.” Do you agree or disagree and why?
- c. The clip discusses all the steps Samuel Caruso took to organize. What do you think is important in bringing a group together to support an issue?
- d. After you’ve brought your issue to the attention of others, what happens next?

C. Video Clip #2: Civics 101

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqudId1vN3s>

III. Conclusion

Think about what we’ve discussed today, and what you saw in the second video clip on how a bill becomes a law.

MEETING FOUR

Agenda

I. Introduction

Today's topic: Advocacy

II. Roundtable Discussion

Brainstorm topics the group can advocate for during this meeting. Once a topic is selected discuss the following:

Event: Describe the context of the issue. What is the environment? What took place? Who are the stakeholders? What/Who is notably missing?

Impact: What are the stakeholders' known identities? How do their identities influence their feelings and actions on the issue? What power dynamics exist from each perspective?

Bias: What are your biases around this issue? Can you identify biases carried by the stakeholders? What are the societal/systemic/institutional biases involved?

Action: What actions can we take to advocate for this issue?

III. Conclusions

Ask students to give their final thoughts on the past four meetings. What they will do moving forward?