Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to learn how to identify dominant narratives and understand how they benefit some while harming others. They will be provided with a dominant narrative and will analyze how it has been perpetuated and the ways in which has impacted people differently depending on their identities.

Background and Information:

Dominant Narratives is published by the LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan (see citation below).

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. "Understand what dominant narratives are and how they function."

2. "Think critically about the dominant narratives they take for granted" (LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan, 2017).

Time:

30 minutes

Group Size:

Entire group

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness:

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Other Skills:

Diversity & Inclusion

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Dominant Narratives instructions on the LSA Inclusive Teaching website](#)

LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan. (2017, August 24). *Dominant narratives*. https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/inclusive-teaching/sample-activities/dominant-narratives/

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Related Tools:

Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:

- Dialogue Blocker Activity

  o   This activity can help participants understand how dialogue blockers might emerge from dominant narratives.

- Perfectly Logical Explanations

  o   This activity can help participants understand how dominant narratives become so ingrained in society.