DOMINANT NARRATIVES
LESSON PLAN

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
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Related Tools:

*Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:*

- **Dialogue Blocker Activity**
  - This activity can help participants understand how dialogue blockers might emerge from dominant narratives.

- **Perfectly Logical Explanations**
  - This activity can help participants understand how dominant narratives become so ingrained in society.