Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to recognize how oppression can subtly be reinforced within institutions through perpetuated norms and values. In groups, students will design a school whose structures maintain systems of oppression.

Background and Information:

School You, Inc is adapted for use by the Program on Intergroup Relations, University of Michigan. It 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. Recognize “how institutions can be oppressive”
2. “Reflect on how oppressive institutional norms are perpetuated and evade critique” (LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan, 2017).

Time:

45 minutes

Group Size:

Small group

Materials:

Copies of the School You, Inc handout (in Links) and pens/pencils.

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).

Curiosity:

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

Other Skills:

Teamwork, Diversity & Inclusion
Links to Activity Instructions:

- School You, Inc instructions on the LSA Inclusive Teaching website

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- Archie Bunker's Neighborhood
- Dominant Narratives
- Perfectly Logical Explanations