

Facilitated Discussion: In the Aftermath of Katrina

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Topic: In the Eye of the Storm: Katrina, Race, Class, and Our Classrooms

Icebreaker: Pair up for 10 minutes

1. How did you feel as Katrina and its related issues of race, class, privilege, and poverty unfolded before us?
2. How did you address Katrina and its related issues in your classroom?
3. What would you like from our workshop today?

Report Out (value-added approach - contribute only that which adds new information, ideas, or concepts to our collective report): 20 minutes [This could be shorter if pairs recorded their ideas on butcher paper during the icebreaker, using the value-added approach.]

Determine Next Steps (based on report out). Options could include:

- General discussion of report topics, possibly using prompts below (see Discussion Prompts)
- Discussion in possible breakout groups (e.g., by grade level, topic, other category?)
- Brief presentations by those who did deal with Katrina and its related issues in our classroom (e.g., Ian McFeat, Regon Unsoeld, others identified in the workshop)

Possible Discussion Prompts

1. What did we see and hear as the images of Katrina and its aftermath unfolded on TV and on the radio?
2. What did we feel as we saw and heard the images of Katrina and its aftermath unfold on TV and on the radio?
3. What did Katrina reveal about the issues of race, class, privilege, and poverty in the United States?
4. What is Katrina still revealing, nearly six months later?
5. How did Katrina surface in our classrooms, or how might it surface?
6. How did we go about addressing Katrina and its underlying issues, or how might we address it?
7. What does Katrina have to say to us about the issues of race, class, privilege, and poverty in our own communities?
8. How far have we come since the Civil Rights movement?
9. How should progress toward greater racial and class equality be measured?

10. How do we deal with the stereotypical assumptions that arise when we address issues of race and poverty?
11. How do we address the tendency to blame those who suffer most for their own suffering?
12. What challenges did we face, or might we face, while addressing Katrina's and its related issues in our classroom?
13. Others??

Evaluation/Next Steps

Resources and Handout Materials

(see attachments)

Materials and Equipment Needed for Workshop

- Easel pad
- Markers