

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, September 23, 2016

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Article Title: As nation debates, dad preps 'The Talk'

Section: Main, A1

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will discuss racial inequality in today's society.
- ✓ Students will debate whether peaceful protests make a difference.
- ✓ Students will talk about the American flag and what it represents.
- ✓ Students will discuss the ripple effect of having discussions that are focused on racial issues in school.

CCSS Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1.b

Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1.d

Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesize comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue; resolve contradictions when possible; and determine what additional information or research is required to deepen the investigation or complete the task.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7

Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

EALR 1 CIVICS

Understands and applies the key ideals of unity and diversity within the context of the community.

- Explains the diverse perspectives of cultural groups in the community.
- Contributes one's own diverse cultural perspective to the classroom community.
- Evaluates how a public issue is related to constitutional rights and the common good.
- Evaluates relationships between key ideals and historical and current realities.

Vocabulary

Look up the definition of ***unify***. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"I felt proud of the team," he says. "They were ***unified***."

Comprehension Questions

1. Sometime soon, says Eric Metcalf, the NFL three-time Pro Bowler, he'll be having "The Talk" with his 16-year-old son, Mekhi. What is the talk that African-American parents have with their sons?
2. Mekhi is a junior at Garfield High School, a starting 6-foot, 3-inch wide receiver with the football team that's been in the national news. Why?
3. The team had decided to join a protest that began Aug. 26th. Who was at the center of the protest and why did he choose not to stand?
4. Since Garfield's game, the team has been the recipient of what kinds of comments on social media?
5. Emails have come to local school officials and government leaders demanding what?

6. Among its goals, it said, was changing the way the media portrays what?
7. What is Garfield's ethnic make-up for its student population?
8. In January, Mekhi will have his driver's license and that means that soon Metcalf will have that talk that includes how to deal with police. What will he tell his son?
9. What was Metcalf's experience driving around nice cars in Seattle?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts

Have you heard about Kaepernick taking a knee during the national anthem in NFL football games? How do you feel about that? How do your friends/parents/family members feel about it? Will it make a difference?

Among its goals, it said, was "changing the way the media portrays crime. White people are typically given justification while other minorities are seen as thugs, etc."

- Do you agree or disagree with the above statement? Why or why not?

The statement asked for better training for teachers dealing with students. "Example, Why is my passion mistaken for aggression? Why when I get an A on a test, does the teacher tell me, 'Wow, I didn't know you could pull that off.' "

- How is race/racism viewed at your school? Do you hear these types of comments?
- Is academic excellence for a select few? Why or why not?

The team says it will seek meetings with police leaders to "share personal experiences" and with students in classes "where diversity is lacking." The players seek to embark on open dialogue with school staff.

About the football team's controversy, says Bazie, "Everyone is talking about it in the hallways, classroom, lunch time. Some classes are having discussions."

- Do you share personal stories and talk openly about race in classes? Do teachers engage open dialogue about racial issues happening now, in today's society?
- How important is it to discuss issues of race and bigotry; working through them together?

Essay

On Monday, Mekhi tweeted a link to a story with video footage of the unarmed black man shot dead in the middle of the street by a Tulsa, Okla., police officer.

"Yet they wonder why we took a knee," he wrote.

- For athletes, do you think this a good way to protest silently and peacefully?
- Why do some find it disrespectful to sit/kneel during the national anthem?
- What does our flag symbolize?
- There's been a lot of news in the press recently about the shootings of unarmed black men. How do you feel about these crimes? How has social media and the use of pictures and videos showing the truth from personal perspectives? Why is this happening? What changes need to be made and at what levels (government, community, schools, family)?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

Civic Minds in The Seattle Times is posted to the Web on Friday. Please share the NIE program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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