

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, January 20, 2017

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Article Title: **Stepping off sidelines, striding into action**

Section: Main, A1

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will examine peaceful protests, women's issues involving discrimination; empowering them to become peaceful activists.

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.

Social Studies EALR 1: Civics

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

Social Studies EALR 3: Geography

Understands the cultural universals of place, time, family life, economics, communication, arts, recreation, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, government, and education.

- Analyzes and evaluates the social and political factors affecting cultural interactions.

Social Studies EALR 4: History

- Analyzes the motives and interests behind an interpretation of a recent event.

Social Studies EALR 5: Social Studies

- Analyzes consequences of positions on an issue or event.
- Analyzes the short-term and long-term implications of decisions affecting the global community.

Vocabulary

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

"They've been working to attract as many people as possible to create an ***epic*** and irrefutable show of support for people who may be threatened by a Trump presidency."

Comprehension Questions

1. The biggest women's march in the country on Saturday will be held in what location?
2. Where is the anticipated third largest women's march being held?
3. They've been working to attract as many people as possible to create an epic and irrefutable show of support for people who may be threatened by what?
4. And they're anticipating a crowd of about _____, who they hope will walk in a powerful, silent mass from Judkins Park and Playground in the Central District to Seattle Center.
5. Even more important is connecting participants to _____ and _____, so the energy of the resistance movement reverberates well beyond Saturday.
6. As participants arrive at the park, what will they will be asked?

7. To date, the participating groups include many focused on what specific rights and issues?
8. As they planned the march, organizers thought a lot about the messages it will send — and worked to avoid what?
9. The local group also opted to spell “women” with an “x.” Why?
10. They’re also asking participants to rely primarily on what 3 things, rather than their voices, to express their views during most of the 3.6-mile trek from Judkins Park to Seattle Center?
11. The idea for a silent march came from a desire to pay homage to what?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts

“I think it speaks to people’s passion, desperation and resolve to take action and get involved,” said Joy Gerhard, one of the event’s organizers, who has watched as the number of attendees soared 20,000 in the last week alone. “It’s not enough now to sit on the sidelines and be frustrated.”

To Gerhard and the other organizers, the march is just a first step.

“Let’s be clear,” said organizer Lisa Price. “This is a marathon, not a sprint.”

- Why is it not enough to silently sit on the sidelines and be frustrated with what’s happening in the government?
- Why do so many people want to get involved right now? What’s changed?
- ***“This is a marathon, not a sprint.”*** What does Gerhard mean?

Marches alone can be therapeutic, she said, but they’re also frustrating. She remembers walking back from a protest march years ago and saying to herself, “Well, it was cathartic to yell, but what now?”

“We want as many of the marchers as possible to be transformed into activists for an organization they feel passionate about,” she added.

- Do you think the majority of the marchers will become activists for organizations they’re passionate about? Why or why not?
- Many are fearful about policies they think are threatened by a Trump administration. What policies do you think they’re referring to?

“Getting people connected locally is how we will make the difference nationally,” she said.

- Do you believe this is true? Why or why not?

To acknowledge the impact of discrimination based not only on gender but also race, sexual orientation, nationality, faith, class and disability — and how those different forms of discrimination often intersect, overlap and reinforce each other.

“Everybody is wanted. Everybody is needed. These are extraordinary circumstances we are under. There is a huge amount of insecurity about what will happen. We will adapt and get into a scale of activism that will empower people.

“This is the ‘doing’ part and it is just the beginning.”

- How do these forms of discrimination intersect, overlap and reinforce each other? Have you thought about this deeply before?

- Why has there been a historical underrepresentation of minorities in the women's movement?

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 print replica version of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free at 1-888/775-2655.

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