

Social Healing, Learning, and Unlearning in the Classroom: The Understanding that Occurs Beyond Understanding

Presented By:

Milwaukee Affiliate for Social Living

In this experiential learning activity, participants will consider the unique healing capacities of the school environment, and ways to bolster social concern and understanding in students that goes beyond the acquisition of information and includes a deepening of *awareness, acceptance, and valuing* of differences that we don't always understand.

PART 1: Introduction (Ben and Aaron)

Definition

UNDERSTAND

[5 min]

Def. 1. (verb used with object): to be thoroughly familiar with; apprehend clearly the character, nature, or subtleties of

Def 2. (verb used w/o object): to accept tolerantly or sympathetically

dictionary.com

Part 2: BREAK UP INTO GROUPS (preferably by school or program) (Ben)

[5 min]

Identify a group or population that might be thought of as different in some way, and would therefore risk some manner of hardship?

Target Group:

Part 3: Identify the Target Group's needs: (Aaron)

[10 min]

What do did they experience out there that might require healing at school?

What are they needing to experience in terms of healing at school?

Part 4: Identify Biases

(Ben)

[15 min]

What biases exist regarding this identified group that, as educators and community members, we are likely to be influenced by?

What might have students *learned about* this group or population that could *get in the way* of **understanding** (definition 1 & 2) and acceptance?

What might be currently outside of YOUR capacity to understand-with this population? What might be currently beyond your students understanding?

Big group sharing

(10 min)

Part 5: Classroom facilitated Healing (Aaron)

[15 min]

What might students (and faculty/staff!) NEED to learn- or *learn about*- in order to facilitate acceptance and understanding?

Explore now as a group - things that you will do this information-early in the school year- to promote "social healing" your classroom (*hint- consider goals of deepening awareness, acceptance, and valuing of differences).

BIG GROUP SHARING

(10 Min)

Part 6: Reflection and Implementation

Ben and Aaron

(10 min)

Insights and Revelations

Next Steps

Feed back (how was this experience)

Next Steps for you (WHO do you need to connect with to implement this, WHAT will need to be done so that today's learning can carry over to next term)

How can we help support YOUR work in this area?