

ACTIVITY ON LIBERATION, SOCIAL CHANGE, ALLYSHIP (DESIGNED BY TAJ SMITH)

Goals: Students will be introduced to the definition of liberation, social change and allyship.

Materials

- Music
- Chairs that one can get in and out of easily.
- Quotes of Liberation Workers (select brief quotations from RDSJ2 Chapter 10 reading selections #127-137, or any of the readings in Chapters 2-9 Next Steps selections)

Outline of Session

1. Summarize all of the previous sessions and connect to today's topic. (10 min.)
2. Concentric Circles Activity (25 min.)
 - a. Use concentric circles, and have students form an inner circle and an outer circle. Students will have to respond to a question asked while at the same time practicing their active listening skills. For example, the outer circle is asked to respond to a question first while the inner circle listens and paraphrases back, and then switch roles. Once each circle has responded rotate either the inner or outer circle in a direction so that they are matched with a different person. Ask the following questions: how do you define social change/liberation?, how do you define an ally/allyship?, what in the assigned readings for today stood out to you?
 - b. Next debrief the activity by asking the following questions and write the responses on newsprint: how do people define liberation and social change? How do people define an ally?, what are some challenges of working for social change? What are some benefits of working for social change?
3. Brief Introduction of Liberation Workers (30 min.)
 - a. Introduce students to some liberation or social change workers by doing a musical chairs activity. Before class starts, put quotes from liberation workers (brief selections from RDSJ2 readings) on the back of random chairs. (Depending on the size of your class you can incorporate all students but if not, I suggest not using more than 15 students at a time, thus you'd need to have 14 chairs.) Ask the students who have a quote on the back of their chair to line up their seats in a straight line, with every other seat facing a different direction. Have some music available, and randomly play a song for whatever time length the educator deem necessary. The person left without a chair at the end of the song is out of the game, and has to pull out a chair and read off the quote on that chair. Follow this process until there is one chair left, and one person left standing. The point of this activity is to become familiar with liberation and social change workers, while at the same time having some fun.