Lesson Module 1

3. Paideia Seminar

Time: 50-90 minutes

Introduction
A Paideia Seminar is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open-ended question. The main purpose of the seminar is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the ideas and values in *Dream of a Nation*, of ourselves, and of each other. The Paideia Seminar puts the teacher in a position not to teach, but to simply moderate. By prompting open-ended questions to engage students and closing conversations by asking students to apply information and personalize ideas, the class will gain a better understanding of the information as a whole.

The following lesson is adapted from the original Paideia Seminar from the National Paideia Center. For further classroom instruction models and to learn more about Paideia Active Learning visit www.paideia.org.

Procedure
Students will all be assigned to read one from *Dream of a Nation*; prompt students to read the essay, take notes and write down any questions they have, this can be done in-class or as an at home assignment. After the essay is read, the teacher will assemble the students in a whole class discussion (preferably in a large circle).

During the discussion the teacher-moderator will:
1. Ask challenging open-ended questions based on main ideas from the text.
2. Take a variety of notes to record the flow of ideas.
3. Move the discussion along by asking follow-up questions.
4. Note each student’s level of participation and his or her contribution to the dialogue.

During the discussion the students will:
1. Focus on the ideas and values embedded in the essay.
2. Use other students’ names if referring to a point he or she made.
3. Stay focused on the main speaker and wait their turn to talk.
4. Agree or disagree in a courteous thoughtful manner.

Follow-Up Activity
After the seminar thank the students for their participation. Engage the class in a short review/critique of the discussion. Ask them what worked? What didn’t work? And how can the class improve for the next time?

After the review/critique, assign the students a short writing assignment where they can either:
- Reflect on the group discussion or their individual performance
- Explain a comment they did not get a chance to discuss
- Further reflect on the content discussed