

5. Student Inquiry Part I

Time: 50 minutes

Introduction

The student inquiry lesson is designed to teach students to question ideas, explore sources, and research more deeply into a particular topic. This lesson provides an easy transition into Exploring Varying Viewpoints and Real-World Inquiry, the next two lesson modules. By reading an essay and using questions to gain a deeper understanding, students will initiate the research process and begin to explore ideas and solutions outside of *Dream of a Nation*.

Procedure

The teacher will assign a collection of essays to the class (one essay per student or group). The students will be prompted to read the essay while completing the *Essay Companion Form* as well as writing down questions they feel the author left unanswered (assign a certain number of questions). Once completed, the class will come together and create one list of questions, if another student or group can provide an answer for question while citing evidence from *Dream of a Nation*, take the question off the list. Discuss the class questions, and save them for the next two lesson modules.

Lesson Timeline

Assign essays and explain activity	5 minutes
Read, Complete <i>Essay Companion Form</i> , and write questions	25 minutes
Create list of questions and discuss	20 minutes

Transitioning to Modules 2&3 – “Exploring Varying Viewpoints” and “Real-World Inquiry”

The next two modules will challenge students to go beyond the bounds of *Dream of a Nation* and become fully immersed in an issue. Through “Exploring Varying Viewpoints” students will consider alternative ideas on issues, engage in debate scenarios and explore various forms of compromise that focus on solutions. After collecting a broader knowledge base, students will look to effect change in their community in “Real-World Inquiry” before implementing and reflecting on their own solution in the final lesson module “Moving Towards Action.”