SUPPORTING A CULTURE OF INQUIRY IN YOUR CLASSROOM

Overview

In this classroom video, social studies teacher Tareeq Rasheed teaches the lesson The Choices the Leaders Made (Part II) from the Choices in Little Rock unit. This lesson examines the decisions people made in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957 in response to Brown v. Board of Education. Before showing clips from Eyes on the Prize: Fighting Back (1957–1962), to frame this part of the lesson, Mr. Rasheed asks, “When do we as individuals begin to step out and make a change when we see something that is wrong?” After showing the video to the whole group, Mr. Rasheed asks students to write in their journals and then discuss the following prompts in small groups:

- Describe your feelings about the Little Rock Nine’s second attempt to enter Central High School.
- Predict what will happen next after the mob attacks the Little Rock Nine.

Once students finish their small-group discussions, one student from each group shares what their group has discussed.
Questions to Consider

1. What do you notice about how student chairs and desks are arranged in the classroom for this discussion? What effect does this arrangement have on participants? What do you need to consider in your own classroom to arrange the space for this type of discussion?

2. At the beginning of the lesson, Mr. Rasheed asks, “How do we make these changes? Who stands up? Who are the people who see something unjust that is happening in our society and are willing to face that?” What might be the impact on students of starting with these questions before viewing the video? What questions would you ask to help frame the video for your students?

Featured

Tareeq Rasheed
Social Studies Teacher
8th Grade
Stephen K. Hayt
Elementary School
Chicago, IL

Video Goals

• See the lesson on desegregation of Little Rock Central High School from the Choices in Little Rock unit in action.
• Consider how you might teach this lesson in your own classroom.
• Determine what adjustments you might need to make to the lesson based on your students’ needs.

Lesson Resources

• Choices in Little Rock (pages 35–36)
• Eyes on the Prize Study Guide