

Lesson Plan: The Social Construction of Me

Unit: Race Stratification

Teacher: Jill Ferris (Mr. Hanson)

Course: Sociology

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2008

36. Content:

- a. Unit goal: I want my students to understand the relationship between race, ethnicity and discrimination.
- b. Lesson goal: I want my students to understand the social construction of identity, by dissecting an aspect of their own identity.

37. Framing:

- a. Content context: Among other factors like class and gender, race has been a traditional stratifying factor, especially in the United States. This will be the last issue that we will consider with regards to societal stratification.
- b. Classroom context: We wrote "I'm From" poems last class, exploring ethnicity as it relates to identity. I want to further this discussion of identity, by asking them to consider the social construction of their own identity. This will become particularly important as we consider race as a socially constructed force.
- c. Big Picture: Identity is socially constructed, as is race and other areas of social stratification.

38. Objective(s): The student will be able to trace the social construction of an aspect of their identity and, in looking at classmates' work, draw out how social construction happens.

39. Instructional Procedures: (60 min.)

- a. Break down the "I'm From" poems into broad categories of influences/traits. What are you describing. Model using mine. (5-10 min.)
- b. Explain social construction. (3 min.)
- c. Choose one of the traits and map it. (20 min.) Where does it come from? What/who has influenced it? When? Why is it important? Why did you choose that trait?
- d. Art show. Hang your chart on the wall and then we will rotate through them. As you look at other people's charts, note what traits they chose, why they are significant, and the influences. Take notes as you go through. (15 min.)
- e. End Framing: Who is invested in promoting those traits? Why?

40. Materials/Equipment: paper, pencils, crayons, tape

41. Assessment/Evaluation: successful completion of chart

42. End Framing: Homework: None.