



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

2.6 Shedding Light on Color

Objectives

Develop an awareness of the groups subsumed under the phrase “people of color.”

Analyze factors that determine a person’s inclusion under that heading.

Materials needed

Pen and paper or copies of the handout

Possibly, reference materials

Time needed

Thirty to sixty minutes; ten to twenty minutes for variation

Instructor directions

Ask your students to develop definitions of the phrase.

Encourage them to analyze relevant components of the definition and to identify the diversity of groups included in it.

Collect the individual writings or encourage group discussion.

Variation

Have your students create group definitions for the term “people of color” and follow the first two steps listed.



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Directions

Write a definition of the phrase “people of color.”

Do you think this phrase is appropriate? What does it imply? What does it omit?

Expand your definition using two of the following techniques:

Description by geographical location

Analysis by cultural practices

Comparison/contrast between several ethnic or cultural groups

Examples that demonstrate the specific items in your definition

Variation

Work in groups to create your definition for “people of color.” Follow the first two steps above.