



# Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

## 4.3 Examining the Mechanisms of Power

### **Objectives**

Refine students' understanding of the concept of "power" by using certain definition techniques.

Create an awareness of the mechanisms operating in their own lives.

### **Materials needed**

Pen and paper or copies of the handout

### **Time needed**

Twenty to thirty minutes

### **Instructor directions**

Have your student use one of several listed frames of reference (organizational strategies) to define and describe the concept of "power" as it operates in their discipline.

Have them identify the mechanisms that empower some and disenfranchise others.

Ask them to discuss these mechanisms.

### **Variation**

Have your students use one of the given frames of reference to define and describe the concept of "difference" as it operates in their discipline.



# Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

## 4.3 Examining the Mechanisms of Power Handout

### Directions

Use one of the following frames of reference (organizational strategies) to define and describe the concept of “power” as it operates in your discipline:

Symptoms to diagnosis (or causes to effects)

Hierarchical structure

Most-to-least important aspects or components

Identify the mechanisms that empower some and disenfranchise others. Answer the following questions:

What mechanisms are at work in your major or field?

How do these mechanisms affect you?

How do they affect others in your major or field?

What contributes to the perpetuation of these mechanisms?

---

What can you do to change the mechanisms of power?

**Variation**

Use one of the above frames of reference to define and describe the concept of “difference” as it operates in your discipline. Identify which mechanisms contribute to the perception of difference in your major or field. How do these mechanisms affect you? How do they affect others in your major or field?