

Different Voices  
Thursday, July 15, 2010

Awareness Exercise  
Up and Down

***Have participants stand up if they had this experience and then return to their seats.***

If your first language was not English; stand then sit.

If there were more than 50 books in your house when you grew up; stand, then sit.

If you were brought to art galleries or plays by your parents or relatives; stand, and then sit.

If you were told that you were beautiful, smart, and capable by your parents, stand, and then sit.

If you were ever discouraged from academic or jobs because of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or having a physical, emotional or learning disability stand, then sit.

If you were ever encouraged to attend a college by your parents; stand, then sit.

If one of your parents did not complete high school, stand, and then sit.

If you were ever denied employment because of your race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or physical, emotional or learning disability; stand, and then sit.

If you teach in a school that does not have enough computers for your students; stand then sit.

If you teach in a school that does not have enough textbooks for your students; stand then sit.

If you teach in a school that does not have enough space for students and staff; stand then sit.

If you teach in a school that has difficulty with internet access for students and staff; stand then sit.

If you teach in a school, where there are not enough teachers and you have to teach more than 3 classes; stand then sit.

If you teach in a school and because there are not enough teachers you teach outside of your discipline; stand then sit down.

***If the STUDENTS in your school ever experienced or you think they may have experienced the following:***

If English is not first language of the students you teach; stand then sit.

If the students you teach are likely to have less than 50 books in their house; stand, then sit.

If the students you teach may have been stopped or questioned by the police because of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or physical, emotional or learning disability; stand, then sit.

If the students you teach are likely to be afraid of violence because of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or physical, emotional or learning disability; stand, then sit.

If the students you teach are generally not able to avoid places that are dangerous; stand, then sit.

If the students you teach likely may have experienced jokes related to their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or physical, emotional or learning disability; stand, then sit.

If the students you teach may have been a victim of violence related to their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or physical, emotional or learning disability; stand, then sit.

If the parents of some of the students you teach did not grow up in the United States; stand, then sit.

If the students( or majority of students) you teach are likely not to attend college; stand, then sit.

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When did you stand? What was it like when you stood?

What was it like when certain statements were read and you didn't stand?

Ask participants how many times they stood? Most of the time, or a few times

What was that like?

What was it like if you sat the majority of the time?

Questions:

What are your thoughts, comments and feelings about this exercise?

Did anything surprise you?