COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
PEACE STUDIES DEPARTMENT
SPRING 2011
PROFESSOR TAREK MAASSARANI

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Monday, April 25, 2011
WHAT IS DIALOGUE?
THEORETICAL & PRACTICAL

Introduction to the underpinnings of dialogue as a means of conflict resolution and peacebuilding

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DIALOGUE SITES

☐ MLK LIBRARY

☐ LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER (LAYC)

☐ DEANWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD DIALOGUE

☐ CAMPUS INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

☐ SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD DIALOGUE

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LAYC is a multicultural community center in Columbia Heights. The mission of the organization is to support youth development through family and community-based programs. It was founded in 1974 to serve mostly Latino youth, but has expanded to serve a more diverse group of youth.
PARTICIPANTS

- THE GROUP VARIED WEEK TO WEEK
- 3-4 CORE MEMBERS CAME EVERY WEEK
- GRADES 7-GRADERS 12, AGES 13-18
DISCUSSION TOPICS

- DIALOGUE WAS PARTICIPANT-LED
- DC PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND CHARTER SCHOOLS
- DC PUBLIC AREAS
- DRUG ABUSE IN DC
- GANG VIOLENCE AND ASSOCIATION
- CAREER AND FUTURE GOALS

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SAMPLE DIALOGUE SESSION

- Beginning Quote: “I believe the choice to be excellent begins with aligning your thoughts and words with the intention to require more for yourself” - Oprah Winfrey

- RULES: REINTRODUCE THE TALKING PIECE, SAFE SPACE ETC...

- ROUND ROBIN: NAMES, AGE, WHO DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU HEAR THIS QUOTE/HOW DO YOU FEEL LIKE IT CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO YOUR LIFE, AND IF YOU COULD BE ONE FICTIONAL CHARACTER WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

- RECAP: BRIEFLY GO OVER DIALOGUE AND LAST WEEK.

- LOST ON A DESERTED ISLAND

- FEAR IN A HAT:

- WHO’S WHO?: EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP WRITES DOWN 3 THINGS THAT PEOPLE DON’T KNOW ABOUT THEM, TRY TO GUESS WHO WROTE WHAT

- SPECTRUM: AGREE/DISAGREE

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MARTIN LUTHER KING MEMORIAL LIBRARY IS ONE OF DC’S LIBRARIES THAT OFFERS AFTER SCHOOL YOUTH ACCESS TO COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY. THEY SERVE A WIDE VARIETY OF STUDENTS AND OFFER SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH THAT VISIT THE “TEEN-SPACE”
PARTICIPANTS

- THE GROUP VARIED WEEK TO WEEK
- 1-3 CORE MEMBERS CAME EVERY WEEK
- GRADES 10 - POST-HIGH SCHOOL
- AGES 15-22
DISCUSSION TOPICS

☐ ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATION
☐ BARRIERS TO CLEAN/HEALTHY FOOD AND WATER
☐ HOMELESSNESS
☐ RELIGION
☐ QUALITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM
CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

☐ INCREDIBLE WAY TO GET INVOLVED AND INTEGRATED INTO THE DC COMMUNITY FOR GW STUDENTS

☐ LEARNING HOW TO DISCUSS DIFFICULT TOPICS

☐ CLASS EXPERIENCE IS APPLICABLE BECAUSE OF SKILLS IN NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION, ACTIVE LISTENING, AND NONJUDGMENTAL COMMUNICATION

☐ POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THE DIALOGUE FURTHER INTO THE YEAR AT LAYC

☐ BUILD CONFIDENCE IN YOUTH AND FACILITATORS THROUGH DIALOGUE

☐ THIS EXPERIENCE MIGHT INSPIRE FURTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVISM IN ALL DIALOGUE SITES
QUESTIONS?

☐ YOU CAN CONTACT CHARLOTTE, REBECCA, OR ALEX FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAYC AND/OR MLK DIALOGUE

☐ CONTACT TAREK MASSARANI FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDING CLASS, TAREKM@GWU.EDU