



Using Supplemental Materials to Teach Civil Rights Movement

Objective: To teach students complex historical content (Civil Rights Movement).

Setting and Materials:

Settings: General Education Classroom

Materials:

- Eyes on the Prize documentary available at:
<http://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/pbs-eyes-on-the-prize-season-1-episode-1-america-s-civil-right-years-1954-1965-awakenings-1954-1956>
- Compare-Contrast Text Graphic Organizer
- Narrative Text Questions Graphic Organizer

Content Taught

Students are taught complex historical content driven by social studies curriculum. This lesson focused on teaching the civil rights movement. Given the length of the documentary, this lesson can be broken up into several days.

Teaching Procedures

1. Students will watch 15 minutes of the video documentary.
2. Teacher stops video.
3. Direct students to fill out compare/contrast text graphic organizer of the different individuals seen in the segment of the documentary (e.g., Rosa Parks, Minni Jean Brown).
4. Direct students to fill out narrative text questions graphic organizer based on content in the video segment.
5. Instruct students to complete Think-Pair-Share activity in which as a pair they share and discuss one of their answers on the narrative text questions graphic organizer.

Evaluation

Student learning is measured through a content interview in which students verbally answer the questions. A sample is listed below:

1. *Why do you think the Eyes on the Prize documentary began with the Emmett Till segment?*
2. *How did the Civil Rights Movement start?*
3. *Tell me a little bit about Emmett Till. Who was he, and what happened?*
4. *What happened to the people who killed him?*

Lesson Plan Based on:

Gersten, R., Baker, S. K., Smith-Johnson, J., Dimino, J., & Peterson, A. (2006). Eyes on the prize: Teaching complex historical content to middle school students with learning disabilities. *Exceptional Children*, 72, 264-280.

Compare/Contrast Plan

Person 1:	Person 2:
Description:	Description:
How are they similar:	How are they different:

Narrative Text Questions Graphic Organizer

Why were the people in the documentary being treated this way?	
How would you feel if you were treated this way?	
What would you be thinking if you were watching this happen?	

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