



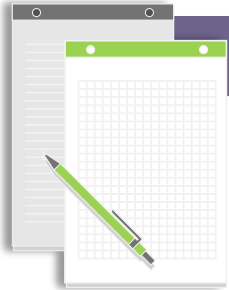
YPAR in School

Personal Connections to the Selected Issue

Lesson adapted from:

YPAR Hub. (n.d.). *Your personal connection with the issue.*

<http://yparhub.berkeley.edu/define-issue/your-personal-connection-with-the-issue/>



Objective

To identify a personal connection to an issue
To practice public speaking skills

Activity: Connecting to Issues

Materials

- Timer
- Paper
- Pens or pencils
- Flip chart paper
- Articles for each of the group's topics

Part 1: Read the assigned article

Within their small groups, have students read the assigned article.

During this time, students should make note of:

- 3 personal connections that they have to the issue, either from the article or from their own experience
- 2 things that they learned from reading the article
- 1 take-away lesson that they want to share with others

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Activity: Connecting to Issues

Part 2: The Wealth is in the Room

In order to effectively create change you must thoroughly understand the issue you are addressing — this requires research. There are many ways to research. One way is to start with yourself. Remind participants that “the wealth is in the room,” meaning personal history/experience is the best first place to start your research.

Have participants share their personal experience with the issue your group has chosen. You, the facilitator, should do this too.

Each participant will have 2 minutes to talk about their connection to the issue. They should talk about themselves ONLY. The 2 minutes are theirs to use. If they stop talking before 2 minutes, the group will remain silent.

Remind group about attentive listening and confidentiality and speaking from yourself. After the 2 minutes are up, the group will have 1 minute to follow up with questions. The speaker can choose what questions they want to answer.

Note: At your discretion, people may speak longer than 2 minutes. Often speakers drift from talking about themselves to talking about others, what they saw on TV, in the news, etc. If they drift, remind them that they are to talk about themselves.



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Reflection

Have each participant write a 5-minute reflection in their process journals:



- How did it feel to share your connection?
- Is there anything else you wish you had said?

Summarize

We are all connected to the issue chosen in some way or another. Even if this is not the issue that affects each of us the most, we are still all impacted by it. As we work on changing this issue, it is important to remember how we are all connected to it collectively and how we are individually connected to it.

Demonstrate

If they want to, have some participants share their reflections. Lead the group in a discussion to draw out key issues to focus on.

- What did you learn from this experience?
- What things did you hear in common?
- Based on the experiences of this group, how can/should we direct our attention to the topic?
- What areas seem most important to follow-up on?

Write all the follow-up ideas on chart paper.

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