

African American Voices Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan: Countering "Self-Destruction"

Subject: American History,
American Government

Grade: 11, 12

NGSSS-SS: **SS.912.A.1.2-** Utilize a variety of primary and secondary resources to identify author, historical significance, audience, and authenticity to understand a historical period.



SS.912.C.2.8- Analyze the impact of citizen participation as a means of achieving political and social change.

**Description/
Abstract of Lesson:** After studying conditions that lead to violence and crime in their own neighborhoods and on a nation-wide scale, students will develop and propose community-based solutions.

Objective(s): The students will accomplish the following:

- Handle "controversial" topics responsibly and fairly.
- Participate in civic responsibility.
- Understand how social policies affect communities.

Materials:

- Multimedia: Internet, CD player
- Handouts of articles from Miami Herald and other news sources (from web sites).
- A music video, CD or MP3 version of the song *Self-Destruction*

Duration: 2-3 class periods

**Lesson Lead In/
Opening:** 1. The teacher will instruct the class that they are about to see the video (or hear the song) *Self-Destruction*, a project that artist KRS-One organized in 1989 in response to the high levels of "Black on Black crime" throughout the country at the time. The video is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQYRy5VeOc0

2. After watching the video (or hearing the song), engage the students in a discussion on the extent to which the topics discussed in the song are still relevant today in their own neighborhoods. (The students can read the lyrics, posted on:

http://www.ohhla.com/anonymous/misc/hip-hop/self_des.stv.txt)

Activity 1: 1. Have the students as a class read and discuss recent articles from the Miami Herald and other news sources about how violence impacts their neighborhoods. You may use the following articles as examples:

<http://socialissues.wiseto.com/Articles/162789851/>

<http://www.empowermentnewsmag.com/listings.php?article=2273>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/17/miami-police-shootings-probed_n_1100211.html#s316288&title=Rodney_King_Beating

2. Have the students read and compare the type of problems experienced in their neighborhood with what takes place in other communities throughout the country. You may use the following articles as examples:

http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2007/01/wheres_the_outr.html

<https://www.detroitmi.gov/?TabId=576&ctl=Details&mid=1362&NewsArticleId=274>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0213/p01s02-ussc.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2009/black.in.america/?iref=allsearch>

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2007/07/06/blackonblack/?rsssource=1>

3. Engage in a brainstorming activity with the students by discussing the type of social conditions that are linked with violent crimes as they take place in their own neighborhoods. Write the students' views on the board within a circle.

4. After discussion, divide the students into cooperative groups. Each group is to compose a list of at least five proposed solutions to improving conditions within the community.

5. After sharing the proposed solutions with the class, the students are to individually write a letter to a local politician, informing him/her of the negative social conditions that exist within their neighborhood and propose at least four solutions to the problem.

6. After reviewing rough drafts of the letters and making corrections, have the students write the letters in a professional manner.

7. Mail the letters to local politicians.

Assessment:

- Consider cooperation grade when students work in groups.
- Teacher observation and evaluation of student letters. Check for historical accuracy as an indicator of comprehension, grammar, etc.

Higher Order

Thinking Questions: 1. How is the video (song) *Self-Destruction* still relevant today?

2. The news media has been commonly criticized for reporting stories on violent crimes, but rarely ever on the conditions that influence the crimes. Why would it be so important to discuss the influencing factors?
3. Should we be alarmed that 97% of all crimes take place within the same "race?" Why or why not?
4. What are ways you can convince your local politicians to take notice and to something about a particular problem in your community?

**Suggested Books
In Lesson:**

Webster, C. S. (2007) Understanding Race and Crime, Open University Press.

Russell-Brown, K. (2006) Protecting Our Own: Race, Crime, and African Americans (Perspectives on Multiracial America), Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Boothe, D. (2006) Why Are So Many Black Men in Prison?, Xlibris Corporation

Kunjufu, J. (2004) Countering the Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys (Series), African American Images

Web Resources:

Articles & Editorials on Black on Black Crimes Nationwide

http://blogs.usatoday.com/oped/2007/01/wheres_the_outr.html

<http://www.detroit.mi.gov/?TabId=576&ctl=Details&mid=1362&NewsArticleId=274>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0213/p01s02-ussc.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2009/black.in.america/?iref=allsearch>

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2007/07/06/blackonblack/?rsssource=1>

Articles & Editorials on Black on Black Crimes in Miami-Dade

<http://socialissues.wiseto.com/Articles/162789851/>

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/19/2510436/trying-to-survive-in-miamis-free.html>

<http://www.miamiherald.com/775/story/166106.html>

Self-Destruction Lyrics

http://www.ohhla.com/anonymous/misc/hip-hop/self_des.stv.txt

Self-Destruction Video

http://www.nobodysmiling.com/hiphop/showvideo.php?rid=76655&path=self_destruction_

Self Destruction

Lyrics by the Stop The Violence All-Stars

KRS-One, Stetsasonic, Kool Moe Dee, MC Lyte, Just-Ice,
Doug E. Fresh, Heavy D, Public Enemy, Ms. Melodie

(Chorus)

Self Destruction, ya headed for Self Destruction
Self Destruction, ya headed for Self Destruction

KRS-One

Well, today's topic, self destruction
It really ain't the rap audience that's buggin
It's one or two suckas, ignorant brothers
Trying to rob and steal from one another
You get caught in the mid
So to crush the stereotype here's what we did
We got ourselves together so that you could unite
and fight for what's right
Not negative 'cause the way we live is positive
We don't kill our relatives

MC Delight of Stetsasonic

Pop pop pop when it's shot who's to blame?
Headlines, front page, and rap's the name
MC Delight's here to state the bottom line
That black on black crime was way before our time

Kool Moe Dee

Took a brother's life with a knife as his wife
Cried cause he died a trifling death
When he left his very last breath
Was I slept so watch your step
Back in the sixties our brothers and sisters were hanged
How could you gang bang?
I never ever ran from the Ku Klux Klan
and I shouldn't have to run from a black man cause that's

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MC Lyte

Funky Fresh dressed to impress ready to party
Money in your pocket, dying to move your body

To get inside you paid the whole ten dollars
Scotch taped with a razor blade taped to your collar
Leave the guns and the crack and the knives alone
MC Lyte's on the microphone
Bum rushin and crushin, snatchin and taxin
I cram to understand why brother's don't be maxin
There's only one disco, they'll close one more
You ain't guarding the door so what you got a gun for?
Do you rob the rich and give to the poor?
Yo Daddy-O, school em some more

Daddy-O and Wise of Stetsasonic
Straight from the mouth of Wise and Daddy-O
Do a crime end up in jail and gotta go
Cause you could do crime and get paid
today And tomorrow you're behind bars in the worst way
Far from your family, cause you're locked away
Now tell me, do you really think crime pays?
Scheming on taking what your brother has?
You little suckers.. you talkin' all that jazz.

D-Nice
It's time to stand together in a unity
Cause if not then we're soon to be
Self destroyed, unemployed
The rap race will be lost without a trace
Or a clue but what to do
Is stop the violence and kick the science
Down the road that we call eternity
Where knowledge is formed and you'll learn to be
Self-sufficient, independent
To teach to each is what rap intended
But society wants to invade So do not walk this path they laid.
It's

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Ms. Melodie
I'm Ms. Melodie and I'm a born again rebel
The violence in rap must cease and settle
If we want to develop and grow to another level
We can't be guinea pigs for the devil

The enemy knows, they're no fools
Because everyone knows that hip-hop rules
So we gotta get a grip and grab what's wrong T
he opposition is weak and rap is strong

Doug E. Fresh

This is all about, no doubt, to stop violence
But first let's have a moment of silence

Fresh beatboxes...

swing Things been stated re-educated,
evaluated THoughts of the past have faded

The only thing left is the memories
of our belated and I hate it, when

Someone dies and gets all hurt up

For a silly gold chain by a chump;

Word up

It doesn't make you a big man,

and to want to go out and dis your brother man,

and you don't know that's part of the plan

Why? Cause rap music is in full demand.

Understand

Self Destruction, ya headed for Self Destruction

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Just-Ice My name is Just-Ice a man not a prankster

I was known... as the gangster

But believe me that is no fun

The time is now to unite everyone

You don't have to be soft to be for peace

Robbin' and killin'and muderin is the least

You don't have to be chained by the beast

But party people it's time I release!

Heavy D

Aaayyyo here's the situation:

Idiocy Nonsense, violence,

not a good policy

Therefore we must ignore, fightin and fussin

Hev is at the door so there'll be no bum rushin

Let's get together so we don't be fallin apart

I heard a brother shot another. It broke my heart

I don't understand the difficulty, people

Love your brother, treat him as an equal

They call us animals uhnn uhnn I don't agree with them
I'll prove them wrong,
but right is what your proving them
Take heed before I lead to what I'm sayin
Or we'll all be on our knees, prayin

Fruitkwan of Stetsasonic
Yo Heavy D, deep in the heart of the matter
The self destruction is served on a platter
Makin a date not failing to anticipate
They got greedy so they fell for the bait
That makes them a victim, picked then plucked
New jack in jail, but to the vets they're a duck
There's no one to rob, cause in jail you're a number
They never took the time to wonder about

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Chuck D & Flavor Flav of Public Enemy
Yes we urge to merge we live for the love
Of our people the hope that they get along
(Yeah, so we did a song)
Getting the point to our brothers and sisters
Who don't know the time (boyyee, so we wrote a rhyme)
It's dead in your head, you know,
I'll drive to build And collect
ourselves with intellect,
come on To revolve to evolve to self respect
Cause we got to keep ourselves in check
Or else it's...

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