

Facilitator's Guide

Title: Interpersonal Skills

Overview: Sooner or later, most teachers are faced with the war of attrition. Racial and cultural differences are an intrinsic part of the American social, cultural, and historical fabric. Through the use of a case study, the goal of this activity is to explore methods of using effective interpersonal skills to break down barriers that can exist in diverse cultural classroom settings and to stimulate discussion around the issue of achieving equity in the classroom.

Objectives: Participants will:

- Increase their understanding about equity issues and define equity.
- Identify methods of keeping student-teacher interactions from entering an emotional arena.
- Identify methods for making the classroom an equitable learning environment for all students.
- Develop a vision of equity and excellence in science and mathematics education.

Time Frame: 3 hours

Preparation Requirement/Materials Needed: See Section 1

- Equipment
 - Easel paper and scented, multicolored sets of markers.
- Transparencies
 - Jigsaw Exercise
 - Simple Jigsaw
- Handouts
 - Individual Thinking Log
 - Fighting for Life in Third Period
 - Review of NCRMSE Research: Equity in Restructured Schools
 - Equity in the Reform of Mathematics and Science Education: A Look at Issues and Solutions
 - What Is Equity? The Struggle for Definitions and a Common Language
- Reading
 - Dealing With Diversity: Casting Off the Stereotypes

Program Outline/Sequencing:

- 1.6 “Naïve Expectations Or Harsh Realities . . .?” (p. 35)

Follow-up Activities from Toolkit

3.3.1 Do You See Me?: Musings of the Invisible (p. 33)