



New York Collective of Radical Educators' INQUIRY TO ACTION GROUPS (ITAGS) 2012

The New York Collective of Radical Educators is pleased to offer an opportunity for teachers to build community and develop as activists. Educators will participate in Inquiry to Action Groups linking social justice issues with classroom practice. Small groups will meet weekly (for a total of six, two-hour sessions plus a kick-off and possible conference workshop) between January and March to share experiences, respond to readings, exchange ideas and develop plans of action.

1. No Justice, No Peace: Creating a Culture of Peace Through Nonviolence Education

Countless lesson plans have been created to help young people identify bullying as a form of violence. Yet so often our attempts to teach peaceful conflict resolution in the classroom ignore the structural violence that many of our students and their families face on a daily basis. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." So can we hope to teach peace in the presence of injustice?

This is an ItAG specifically for educators who work with elementary school children. Participants will examine the various forms of violence that overtly and covertly manifest themselves in daily life. We will explore the philosophies of practitioners of nonviolence including Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez, and discuss how to introduce and break down these concepts to even the youngest of learners. Our goal is to develop curriculum that goes beyond anti-bullying to help students identify the pervasiveness of violence and the power of nonviolence.

Facilitators: Karla Tobar is a fourth grade bilingual teacher in the Bronx. She is a 2011 Ahimsa Center Fellow, an experience that sparked her interest in nonviolence education. Alanna Howe is in her seventh year of teaching in New York City Public Schools. She is currently teaching 5th grade at a dual immersion school in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn.

Location: Project Reach, 39 Eldridge Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10002

Dates: Tuesdays from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Kick off on 1/27; sessions following on 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 2/28, 3/6, and 3/13.

2. Re-Imagining the Identity of Special Education

What is "Special Education"? Good question!!

This ItAG seeks to redefine, reinvigorate, and re-imagine what it means for us (educators, service providers, family members) and our students to be a part of the Special Education SYSTEM (roar...). Through the sharing of stories, critical readings/discussions, and transformational art (yes, you might get dirty!) we will collectively re-imagine and recreate the World of Special Education.

Facilitators: Margrit Pittman-Polletta is a Brooklyn native and early childhood Special Education teacher at PS 24 in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Emily Clark is not a Brooklyn native. She teaches ninth grade English at Manhattan High School, a District 75 high school, in Manhattan.

Location: Manhattan High School, 317 West 52nd Street (Between 8th and 9th Aves), Manhattan

Dates: Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 pm. Kick off on 1/27; sessions following on 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15.



3. Write On!: Writing for Social Justice

This ItAG will explore what it means to write for social justice. Participants will engage in writing activities as both writers and teachers of writing. Participants will discuss standards, literacies, and definitions of social justice in relationship to writing as an educational, artistic, and social act. Ultimately, our goal is to develop strategies, insights, models, and tools that enrich our teaching practice.

Facilitators: Ama Codjoe is the poetry-teaching artist with A.C.T.I.O.N. (a social justice and arts program) and the co-facilitator for the Social Justice Pedagogy Team at DreamYard Project in the Bronx. Chrissy Williams is a high school English instructor at Arturo A. Schomburg Satellite Academy in the Bronx.

Location: Institute for Urban and Minority Education, 2090 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard. 8th Floor.

Dates: Thursdays from 5:30-7:30pm. Kick off on 1/27; sessions following on 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, and 3/22.

4) Public Education for the 99%

The Occupy movement has taken over the country! This ItAG will begin by exploring public education from the vantage point of the 1% (What's Wall Street got to do with our schools?) and end by re-imagining what public education will look like when democratically run by the 99%. The ItAG will collaborate with members of Occupy the Department of Education (DOE), Occupy Wall Street (OWS), and will be action oriented throughout the process.

Facilitators: Alba Lamar is a third grade teacher in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. She is a member of NYCoRE and a member of Occupy the DOE. Leia Petty is a high school counselor in Bushwick, a member of Occupy the DOE and a contributor to www.socialistworker.org.

Location: The Atrium at 60 Wall Street

Dates: Sundays at 12pm (noon). Kick off on 1/27; sessions following on 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/26, 3/4, and 3/11.

5) Pipeline Pedagogy

The School to Prison Pipeline is a system of policies and practices within the DOE and the NYPD that push young people away from schools, into the streets, and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Also known as School Pushout, these policies disproportionately affect youth of color, youth with special needs, and youth from low-income families. In these sessions we'll explore the origins of the pipeline in New York City, what pushout looks like today, and ways in which stakeholders including parents, teachers, administrators and students might work together to help dismantle the system that is depriving the most vulnerable youth populations of a quality education.

Facilitators: Wazina Zondon is a social justice-minded educator and NYCoRE member. She currently teaches sex ed to 8th graders in downtown Brooklyn. Angela Jones is the Coordinator of the School to Prison Pipeline Project at the New York Civil Liberties Union. Her work focuses on improving school safety policies and putting an end to the path that leads students away from schools and toward the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

Location: Project Reach, 39 Eldridge Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10002

Dates: Mondays from 6:00-8:00pm. Kick off on 1/27; sessions following on 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/27, 3/5, and 3/12.

ItAG Kick Off Meeting

A general kick-off meeting for all ItAG participants will be held Friday, January 27th, 6:00– 8:00 p.m. at NYU, Pless Hall @ 82 Washington Square East (between Greene and Washington Square Park). 3rd floor Lounge. Dinner provided. (Call Ariana @ 917.270.7901 if you have trouble finding the location).

Registration

The registration fee is \$30. Multiple teachers from the same school can register together for the same ItAG for a reduced rate of \$25 each. This will cover the cost of materials and support NYCoRE's ongoing work. More info available at www.nycore.org.

To register, visit www.nycore.org

Questions? Email natalia@nycore.org or ariana@nycore.org