

DataHaven

Classroom Materials

Title of Material: Health Inequality in Connecticut

Topics Discussed: Health inequality, discrimination, immigration, LGBTQ+, racism, sexism, socioeconomics

Skills Utilized: Vocab definitions, quote analysis, annotation, peer collaboration, class discussion

Format: Individual or in small groups, discuss as a class

In Person or Online: Either

Procedure/Instruction Suggestions:

Breaking up quotes like this one, reviewing them piece by piece through close reading strategies and class discussion can not only help with students' understanding of the quote, but fosters their own reading strategies to use beyond this exercise. This exercise works best if you first have the students define the words on their own, giving them about 7 - 10 minutes to do this and go over it. It can serve as a Do Now or just part of the instruction. After, read the quote to them first, slowly and pointing out the words that they defined. Then, have them read individually. After, have them pair up and compare what sentences, phrases, and words they selected and discuss why that stuck out to them as important. A class discussion revolving around what they picked can be very open dialogue; put the single words they bracketed on the board (having every student go around and say their word, it's interesting to see the board fill up with important words) and projected this quote on the board and had students go up and underline, bracket and highlight one example from their work. The end goal is for them to dive deep into the quote itself and see how their peers read it as well. After, having a discussion on the meaning of the quote can be valuable. Either connect it to other materials or themes they are learning or ask essential questions like:

1. Why is it important to understand the historical context of our society when trying to understand it in the present?
2. What can we do to confront these inequalities?
3. What role can you play, as a student, to confront these inequalities?

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Health Inequality in Connecticut

Directions: Define the key words in your own words. Then, read the quote in the box below and underline the sentence, [bracket] the phrase, and **highlight** the word that stuck out to you as important.

Key Words
Inequality:
Intrinsic:
Discrimination:
Legacy:
Deprivation:
Integration:
Marginalization:
Disenfranchisement:

Quote Analysis

The forces that contribute to health inequity are intrinsic to discrimination-based social inequality. For many, the greatest barrier to overall good health is the legacy of racism, structural deprivation, and limited integration into the systems that help people achieve a better quality of life. Historically, people who have had unequal access to the resources needed to become and remain healthy have included people of color, especially Black people; specific ethnic groups—in Connecticut, especially people of Puerto Rican ancestry; immigrants, especially those who are undocumented; people with low incomes; people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or as sexual/gender minorities (henceforth, LGBTQ); and people with disabilities. Too often, this marginalization is the result of intentional disenfranchisement by the most advantaged groups.

- DataHaven, 2020