



ESSENTIALS OF DIALOGUE: POWER & INFLUENCE PREPARATION GUIDANCE

Objective: Students share and enquire together the main influencers in their own lives and that of their communities; where they feel power sits; which narratives hold power; and how they can have positive power and influence.

Find out more at:

generation.global

Sharing

Prepare students to share who or what has influenced them in their lives (ref activity 'A Handful of Influences')? In what ways? What or who is influential in their communities?

Enquiry

Encourage students to think of questions that explore and enquire into the nature and reach of power in their personal lives, their communities and their nations. Do the students feel 'empowered' (they may need to come to a common understanding of what this term means to them).

Perhaps have them consider

- Questions exploring economic, spiritual, social and political power. Where do they see these sorts of power in their communities?
- Who or what has had the most influence on your life?
- How easily influenced are you?
- Where do you have influence?
- Have you ever managed to change something for the better? What did this involve?
- Where would you like to have more influence?

Encouraging challenge and critical thinking

- Where do the students witness negative influence in their lives?
- What are the opportunities and barriers for them to have more power in their lives?
- Is power negotiated? Do you negotiate power in your life?
- Does an increase in power for one individual or group come at the expense of others?
- Does power vary according to identifiers like gender, sexuality, religion, ethnicity, social status, etc?
- Who has less power? How do you feel about this?

Reflection

Set this up early on in the dialogue. Encourage students to be thinking about how well they think they and others have done dialogically, and to be aware of any shifts in attitudes and opinions they are experiencing throughout the dialogue. How did they feel about the process of dialogue on this issue? Have they learned anything from their peers?