Harlan County Public Schools
Non-Traditional Instruction Project
Law & Justice Bill Scott
2019-20

Introduction: These projects will involve understanding the concept of *justice.* In order to understand and develop our own definition of justice we will examine real life examples chronicled in documentaries and writings. We will have 2 projects. Each project will contain 5 assignments or parts, one for each day.

Standards: Academic Expectation 2.14 Students understand the democratic principles of JUSTICE, equality, responsibility, and freedom and apply them to real life situations.

Academic Expectation 2.16 Students observe, analyze, and interpret human behaviors, social groupings, and institutions to better understand people and the relationships among individuals and among groups.

Project 1 The first 5 N.T.I. days

Consider all you learned while watching the documentaries Death Row with Trevor McDonald parts 1 & 2. You may watch them again on YouTube. You will find them by searching YouTube for: Death Row with Trevor McDonald (Parts 1 or 2). The upload by YouTube contributor "Uniq4ever my life and work" is 47:25 long for part 1 and a popular example with occasional pop up ads but no commercials. If you do not have internet access you may complete the assignment by referring to your notes or the notes and outlines I have provided in this packet. You will certainly remember much of the film and all of the concepts we explore. *Remember mute the sound at 31:34 and keep it muted until 36:12! Benjamin Ritchie is trying to act macho by acting tough in front of his friend. Some of his language is inappropriate. You can watch his body language and see what is going on. You don't need to hear him talk.*

Activity 1: Write a 1 page minimum, 4 paragraph essay about any person from the film.

Activity 2: Write a letter to the person you wrote about in activity 1.

Activity 3: Write a letter to the governor of Indiana asking him to consider the person from your Day 1 activity. You may ask for any action.

Activity 4: Write an argument for a "prison board" to consider.

Activity 5: Choose 2 of the 4 democratic principles and discuss how this film has improved your understanding of each concept.

Activity 1: Write a 1 page minimum, 4 paragraph essay about any person from the film.

Introduction: Introduce this person to the audience by giving brief details about what you are going to say in paragraphs 2 & 3. "Tell em' what you are gonna tell them"

Paragraph 1: Give details about this person, their crime, and their present situation.

Paragraph 2: Discuss this persons status and if, in your opinion, *the democratic principle of justice has been served in this real life situation.*

Conclusion: Wrap up the paper by concisely restating what you said in paragraphs 2 & 3. "Tell em' what you told them

Activity 2: Write a letter to the person you wrote about in activity 1.

- Do not include your name or any personal information.
- Do not mail this letter.
- Do tell them in paragraph 1 that you are writing this after watching the documentary as part of a high school law & justice class.
- Do explain to them why you chose them.
- Do ask them how the democratic principles of justice, equality, responsibility, and freedom and apply them and their real life situation.
- Explain to them that if they respond their responses will be used respectfully in class discussions and learning.
- Ask them anything else you wish as long as it is not too personal.
  If you letter is selected (by me) I will, with your parent's permission, send it to them *without your name or any personal information.* If we get a response it will come to the school addressed to me with no mention of any student names.

Activity 3: Write a letter to the governor of Indiana asking him to consider the person from your Day 1 activity. You may ask for any action. A pardon, denial of pardon, or any other action the governor can legally perform.

Activity 4: Write an argument for a "prison board" to consider. (We will assume that is a possibility) The argument does not have to be for early release.

You may choose to argue for or against the release of the person you have chosen in the previous 3 activities. The argument should be a minimum of ¾ page in length and contain specific reasons you want the board to take the action you request. Ex. _____ has shown remorse… his rehabilitation is shown by….. he is no longer a threat to society… etc.

Activity 5: Consider the real life situations we have viewed in this documentary. What have you learned about each of the concepts below? Choose 2 of the 4 democratic principles and discuss how this film has improved your understanding of each concept. How has each principle been shown in different situations?

- The democratic principles of justice.
- The democratic principle of equality.
- The democratic principle responsibility.
- The democratic principle of freedom.

1. _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

- After observing the inmates in this documentary how has your understanding of the institution of prison changed?

3. _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

- After observing the inmates in this documentary how has your understanding of the relationships among groups in prison changed?

4. _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

- After observing the inmates in this documentary how has your understanding of the relationship among individuals in prison changed?

5. _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Here is the cast from Death Row with Trevor McDonald

1. Frederick Baer: Skinny guy with red stringy hair with an obsession with Princess Di. Convicted of the murder of 26-year-old Cory Clark, murder of her 4 year old daughter. Baer later admitted that he intended to rape Clark, but decided not to go through with it for fear of disease. He decided to go through with the murders to avoid being identified. Quote: "*I am not a violent person, I cry when a frikkin butterfly gets hit on the windshield"* We re-visited him in a more recent film. He was now bald and seemed to show a lot of remorse.
2. James Harrison: "Offender Harrison" he looks like Santa Claus and lived in general population in a cubicle after getting off death row. He won an appeal an instead of a new trial took a plea deal. "I took the years"
3. Dennis Leer: He had "Rascal" the cat. He seemed like a good ol' country boy. He had a photo of his mother. He was in lock down the 2nd time McDonald visited him.
4. Paul McManus: Redheaded diabetic who had killed his wife and kids. He lost about 100 lbs. He showed O.C.D. in the way he kept his cell so neat. His interactions with the nurse were very interesting.
5. Rick Pearish: A prison barber who lived in an honor cell. A bulletin board showed his life in photos. Serving a long sentence for robbery and 3 counts of kidnapping. He won't cut death row inmates hair. To many he seemed to be completely rehabilitated and no threat to society.
6. Benjamin Ritchie: The cop killer who "showed bravado" when he was interviewed with his friend outside in the rec cage. He said he grew up stealing from a very early age. "stealing cookies turned into.." He is married to a British woman. He was captured at a friend's house.
7. Ronald L. Sanford: Convicted of murder at 13 years old. Imprisoned at Indiana State Penitentiary at 15. He was charismatic and likable. He talks like an educated person with a good philosophy of life. His motto: "No man is your enemy, no man is your friend, every man is your teacher."
8. John Serwatka: 50ish skinny balding (front) guy with a bushy beard and mustache. He killed 2 people in a "hit" in Gary Indiana. He claimed to fear for the life of his family. His quote was "When I came at you I was not just going to stab you, I was going to run it all the way through you" He found comfort and privacy in his cubicle. He was a barber in the prison barber shop.
9. John Stephenson
10. William K. Wilson: The superintendent of Indiana State Penitentiary. He is in charge of the whole prison. He visits death row every week. He is super compassionate and perhaps even anti-death penalty. "I pray to god to forgive me of my feebleness"
11. Matthew Eric Wrinkles: The last person executed in Indiana. We saw him take his last walk from his cell to his execution. He dressed up in camo and killed his wife, his sister-in-law and her husband.