Murray and Pearson: Socratic Seminar Assessment– ERWC Profiling Unit

Objectives: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge on multiple sources and perspectives verbally. Students will be able to compile notes in order to write their final essay on profiling.

A Socratic Seminar is an activity that tests the students’ knowledge on a subject and their ability to connect the class subject to the real world and thematic ideas. Because it is a verbal assessment, it also allows them to practice their speaking and listening skills in an academic environment as part of a conversation. This Socratic Seminar in particular will test also their ability to synthesize (use multiple sources to prove an argument) by using materials (readings, films, visuals, etc…) we covered and analyzed throughout the unit. Students will be assigned a perspective from which they need to participate in the Socratic Seminar (see attached list of assigned perspectives).

Sources covered in unit:
A Class Divided (documentary on Jane Elliot’s brown-eye/blue-eye discrimination lesson)
Going for the Look, but Risking Discrimination - Steven Greenhouse
Justices Take Up Race as a Factor in College Entry – Adam Liptak
Don’t Let Stereotypes Warp Your Judgments - Robert L. Heilbroner
Viewpoint: How We’re All Victims of Racial Profiling - Jeninne Lee-St John
Scholastic.com Pro/Con Debates on Racial Profiling and Affirmative Action
Clips from the film Crash
US News “Debate Club” on Arizona’s SB 1070 Immigration Law

Questions that will be addressed:
• How are you stereotyped and discriminated against in society? Give examples.
• Who would you stereotype or discriminate against in society and why?
• What are the advantages and disadvantages of your own identity?
• What has society established that hinders your success?
• What has society established to assist you in your success?
• Is profiling ever justified?
• Is discrimination a modern day issue?

Scoring Guide:
Students will be graded in the following Common Core related categories (10 points for each category; total of 40 points)
1. Collaborative Discussion: Initiates and participates thoughtfully and reaches out to include others in the discussion.
2. Listening: Listens carefully to what is said and regularly responds to others.
3. Evidence: Draws appropriately to personal experience and regularly uses strong textual evidence.
4. Speaking: Asks questions and responds appropriately and logically, uses strong academic vocabulary.
Perspectives to be assigned:
Lawyer
Beauty Industry
Police Officer
Consumer
White Student
Model
Waitress
Advertising Executive
Artist
Store Owner
Convenient Store Manager
Communications Director
Aged Person
Immigrant
Border Patrol agent
Orphan
Psychologist
Woman
Minority Student
African-American Politician
Economist
Supreme Court Judge
College President
Athlete
Psychologist
Disabled Person
Pregnant Woman
Pastor/Priest
Journalist/Reporter
Criminal
College Professor
Comedian
Native-American
Flight-attendant
Medical doctor
Mother
The President of America
Wealthy
Impoverished
Banker
Liberal
Conservative
Someone from the future