



BARD COLLEGE INSTITUTE FOR WRITING & THINKING

PO Box 5000, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

Phone 845-758-7484

E-mail iwt@bard.edu

www.writingandthinking.org

BELOW ARE THE SAMPLE STUDENT LESSON PLANS GENERATED BY THE TEACHERS IN OUR WORKSHOPS.

1) SAMPLE LESSON PLAN #1

Collaborative Work: Believe and Doubt: Focus Free Writes

Texts:

Preamble to the US Constitution

July 14, 2009 “Op. Ed.” from Justice Sonia Sotomayor

June 2, 2009 Wall Street Journal Opinion from President Barack Obama on his vote against Justice John Roberts nomination to the United States Supreme Court

Questions for collaborative work:

Who does Obama think is included in “We the People?”

Have “We the People” established justice? How and how not?

To what extent is Justice implied in your community?

Does it matter whether your community is diverse in terms of race and heritage? Why or why not?

Come to some consensus about this. Then do a “believe and doubt” exercise about it.

2) SAMPLE LESSON PLAN #2

Texts: Sotomayor op ed piece; John Roberts op ed piece; *Preamble*

Two free-writes:

- 1) What does it mean to be “empathic?”
- 2) What does it mean to be “inclusive?”

Now, read the Preamble to the US Constitution;

Read the Sotomayor; Read the Obama

Mark them up. Read silently to yourselves.

What did they understand? What did they not understand?

Each person write a concise statement of what they understood and what they did not understand. Now exchange the statement with their partner and their partner will read their statement out loud.

Now do a “believe and doubt” exercise with this.

Now, read the “Preamble” out loud as a group. Read it sarcastically and cynically. Then read it like you mean it. Process: How does the Preamble change in tone and meaning once these exercises have been done?

3) LESSON PLAN # 3

Texts: *Preamble*; Sotomayor and Roberts’ op. ed pieces.

Ask them:

What makes a good judge?

When have you been judged?

“Explode” the preamble: Put it into 20th century language.

Which side does the preamble support?

Sotomayor or Obama’s side? Why and how?

What questions does it raise about the balance of powers?

Do you agree? Disagree? Believe and Doubt it.