

Project on Non-Violence

10th Grade Humanities

Teacher: Brooke Gonzales

Project Description:

Throughout history and still today, people have tried to make a difference in the world around them through the use of violence and non-violence. In this project, students explored what the results of these attempts have been through the study of six violent revolutions and six non-violent revolutions. Students also read and analyzed Animal Farm by George Orwell, a critique of the Russian Revolution. Ultimately, students discovered that non-violence is much more effective in accomplishing a long-term positive change within our world. As a class, students worked together to create lessons showcasing what they learned to teach elementary school students about non-violence. In addition, they created a collaborative mural on non-violence where each person on our team of fifty painted a square to be a part of the larger mural. At the end of October 2010, students traveled to Casillas Elementary school and taught their lessons to second graders, presented their mural which they donated to the school to display, and did collaborative artwork with the students on non-violence.

Student Reflections:

“Teaching second graders our lessons on non-violence was one of the best experiences in my life. I realized that everyone has something to say, something to teach you, you just have to listen. Kids make the hard things seem easy and the stress go away. When we were about to leave, a lot of the kids came and gave us hugs. This showed me how grateful they were, and how much a humanities project can do.”

-Renata Botello, tenth grade student

“As the project went by I realized to make something worth it you have to make sacrifices, you have to fix your work over and over until it becomes rewarding. I learned that art is not simply being beautiful but that it should be inspiring to others until it becomes a chain. And the last thing I learned is that if someone took years to make a change, why can't we take two hours to teach the youth about it?”

-Adrian Gonzalez, tenth grade student

“I definitely think that non-violence is an important topic for today and that it is the only successful way to change a problem. After we looked at violent revolutionary wars and non-violent revolutions, it really gave me a different perspective on wars. I saw how non-violence is the only way to change things for the better.”

-Isabella Beckwith, tenth grade student