

TYLA CIVILITY *for All*

Civility For All Classroom Activity – Compare and Contrast

Time

50 minutes (one class period), plus preparation.

Materials

Large adhesive notepaper or butcher paper and markers for small group work. You could also use different sections of the dry erase board or smart board.

Summary

Students will work together to compare and contrast the philosophies and actions of the Black Panther Party and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement.

This is an activity specifically geared towards the TEKS US.9 (E), but it can be modified for any historical or current overlapping philosophies that would promote civil discourse in the classroom.

Procedure

- Begin the exercise by telling the students that one of your goals for the class is to help them learn to participate in discussion with each other.
- Remind the class of the “Ground Rules” for their civil discourse.
- Tell the class that you will all be working together to compare and contrast the philosophies and actions of the Black Panther Party and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement for classroom discussions.
- Break them into groups of three or four and give each group a large adhesive note, piece of butcher paper and markers, or a portion of the board.

- Each group should research the philosophies and actions of both the Black Panther Party and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and write them on the paper. They should try to make sure that they include facts and the supporting evidence for those philosophies and actions.
- Once all groups have finished, ask each group to come to the front of the class and share its findings. After each group is done, hang the group's paper on the wall.
- After all groups have presented, ask each student to compile a short essay comparing and contrasting the two, indicating the strengths and weaknesses in the two.

