

Michelle Miles

Emmett Till
An Introduction to Social Injustice

Objective: Recognize Social Injustices within your own society, community, or school.
Instructional Objectives:

1. Students will relate Emmett Till case to current injustices in society.
2. Students will recognize a social injustice within their own community or life
3. Students will understand that an *unwritten law* (Jim Crow Law) was violated by Emmett Till.
4. Students will understand the death of Emmett Till gained national/world attention and projected Civil Rights issues the forefront.

Motivation/Bell Assignment:

Ask the students or have the question pre-written on the overhead, "Have you ever crossed an invisible line?"

After students have completed the writing ask for 3 or 4 students to share or respond or students could Pair/Share.

Activity 1:

Students will go to computer lab and go through the activities at PBS: The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow: Unwritten Rules...Unwritten Legacy (<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/tools/unwritten.html>).

Discuss their responses to the questions posed in each activity, and talk about whether any of these experiences might still be relevant or common today. In what ways they think racism, social injustice and discriminatory behaviors still exist in this country?

Activity 2:

Students will learn more about the Emmett Till murder viewing the movie during class time--PBS: The American Experience: The Murder of Emmett Till
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till>

Additional Resources:

The Death of Emmett Till (Historical Background)
<http://www.bobdylanroots.com/till.html>

CNN: Civil Rights Timeline
<http://www.cnn.com/EVENTS/1997/mlk/links.html>

Conclusion and Assignment:

Students will write a 5-paragraph essay on ONE of the following topics:

1. Compare the Emmett Till case to ONE current injustice you see today.

2. Write about a social injustice you recognize in society today.
3. Compare *Jim Crow Laws* to any unspoken rules or lines in your life.
4. Prove or dis-prove the following statement “Emmett Till Case Sparked the Civil Rights Movement.”