

Religious Leaders for Justice

Summary

The activity consists of preparing a group presentation about famous religious people who worked for justice.

Description of the activity

After discussing religion and law (based on paragraph 6 of chapter 3) in class, the teacher presents the activity to come. The students have to form several groups of 3 or 4 people. They have to choose one famous religious person who was an activist for justice. They have 2 or 3 weeks to prepare the presentation. For all of the presentations, several points have to be highlighted:

- A quick biography of the person
- Development of his/her religious aspect: what religion he/she believes/ed in, what values are/were most important to him/her, etc...
- Development of his/her fight for justice: what cause were/are they defending? Why? What are their main arguments to defend it? What is/was the goals they want(ed) to achieve, and how? What are/were their main actions?
- What results were achieved (or not)? Changes in law? Changes in mentality? Success? Failure? Etc...

The students are free to choose any personality they want. If they appear to be short of ideas, the teacher can suggest some personalities (Martin Luther King, Confucius, Malcom X, the Dalai Lama, etc...).

The teacher tells the students that they can use any resources they want for their research: the school library, books, online resources etc. But they have to add a bibliography at the end of their presentation. They can prepare a PowerPoint presentation if they want to. The presentation should not be longer than 15/20 minutes, and each person of the group will have to speak. At the end of each presentation, other students are free to ask questions in order to open a discussion / a debate.

Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** during one, two or three classes depending on the number of students/groups.
- **Resources needed:** computers / projector if the students need them for their presentation.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** between 15 and 30 students
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** some historical knowledge about that sort of activism is preferable but not necessary.
- **Activity duration:** the activity requires some preparation time at school and/or at home for each group (for instance 2 weeks), and the presentations will be held in class.





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Learning Objectives

The students will be aware of the relationship between religion and justice, and will understand that religion and law share some common values and aims. They will also understand that religion can justify and give meaning to laws, seeking justice.

Expected Outcomes

The students will have to work as a cohesive group, each of them being involved in the research process and in the discussion with the other members of the group. They will have to select and to classify the information they will find in books and online, and to be able to present this in front of the class.

Target group

Students between 14 and 18 years of age.

Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

History, Politics, Philosophy, Law



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