

Request For Workshops

for the 2nd Annual Northwest Conference on Teaching for Social Justice

“Rethinking Our Classrooms, Organizing for Better Schools”

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Washington Middle School, 3100 Cain Rd SE, Olympia, WA

Hosted by Puget Sound Rethinking Schools, Olympia Educators for Social Justice,
Portland Area Rethinking Schools, Tacoma Coalition X
Co-sponsored by *Rethinking Schools* magazine

For more information about the conference, visit www.nwtsj.org

We are looking for teachers, teacher educators, and community activists to present curriculum, information, and resources at our 2009 conference. The workshops will last approximately 1½ hours. Successful workshops will:

- **Express a social justice perspective**
- **Be hands on and practical**
- **Give participants a chance to talk to one another**

We are looking for workshops that balance content and process, where participants can learn something new and have a chance to discuss & reflect upon their own experiences and practices.



Some past workshops offered at the 1st Annual Northwest Conference for Teaching for Social Justice were:

Creating a more Democratic Classroom; The Line Between Us: Teaching about the Border and Mexican Immigration; Black student/White school; Building Classroom Community; Rookies for Social Justice; Resisting the Racist Classroom; Beyond Kyoto: Teaching about Climate Change Policy and the Atmospheric Commons; Living With High Stakes Testing While Working to End It; Living Algebra, Living Wage

.org.

Please return this form by Sunday, July 12th, 2009

NWTSJ via email: rfp@nwtsj.org

Or mail to: NWTSJ c/o Ken Rubin, 3635 B Linden Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103, 206-547-5899

Presenter(s)

Contact person (if more than one presenter):

Contact person's mailing address:

Contact person's email:

Contact person's phone (include area code):

Proposed audience:
Early Childhood Elementary Secondary General
Other, please specify:

Please briefly **explain how your workshop will be meaningful to your target audience:**

Brief **biography** of presenter to be included in program:

Presentation title (as you wish it to appear in the program):

Summary (brief description to be used in the program, no more than 50 words):

Workshop Overview: Please describe in detail your 90 minute lesson plan, including timeline and activities.

Sample Proposal Outline

Presentation title (as you wish it to appear in the program):

The Politics of Language: Teaching about Language and Power

Summary (brief description to be used in the program, no more than 50 words):

This session explores key components of a social justice unit on language. Participants will meet literary and historical figures in a colonial language tea party and engage in “take-it-to-the-people” student-created projects about language and assimilation.

Workshop Overview

Introduction: Overview & introductions (10 minutes)

The goal of the session is to engage participants in demonstration lessons about language and power: who has it and who doesn't.

Part 1: Linguistic Tea Party (30minutes)

To familiarize participants with the context and characters they would meet during our journey of language and colonialism, they will engage in a linguistic tea party/scavenger hunt. They will meet eleven historical and literary characters, including: Stanford linguist, John Rickford; Irish poet, Gearóid Mac Lochlainn; Hawaiian writer, Lois-Ann Yamanaka; Hector Pieterse, a twelve-year old boy who died in the Soweto Uprising; Neville Alexander, a South African linguist who is working to restore mother tongue literacy in Africa.

Part 2: Examining language and power stories across continents (35 minutes)

Participants will watch one short video clip from *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* and jigsaw read several short excerpts from memoirs about language from the characters listed above. Participants will share their discoveries in a small group, continuing to ask the questions: Whose language has power? What do they have in common? Whose language changes? What do they have in common?

Part 3: Student “Take-it-to-the-people” projects (15 minutes)

During this final part of the session, we will share student essays and projects from this unit, including Ebonics Jeopardy, children’s books about language extinction, language assimilation, and Ebonics.

Brief **biography** of presenter to be included in program:

Linda Christensen is currently the Director of the Oregon Writing Project at Lewis & Clark, editor of *Rethinking Schools*. She taught high school language arts in Portland Public Schools for thirty years. Her publications include *Reading, Writing, and Rising Up: Teaching About Social Justice and the Power of the Written Word*; *Teaching for Joy and Justice: Re-Imagining the Language Arts Classroom*, and *Rethinking School Reform* with Stan Karp.