

Unit I: Human Behavior

Grade Levels: 6-8

Time: Two 40-minute class periods

Lesson MI-1: An American Moment

Objective:

Students will be able to identify and analyze different communities that make up American culture.

Key Terms:

Inauguration

Invocation

Community

Culture

Sub-culture

Immigrant

Race

Religion

Ethnicity

Humility

Civility

Materials:

- Quote from the Reverend Rick Warren’s invocation at the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States. <http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=86632> (This site provides the full text of the invocation.)

Teacher’s Note: Although this is a quote from a religious figure, it should be used and analyzed in the context of the key terms listed and references that may be interpreted by the students for their particular applicability to the history of the United States and recent events.

Activities/Procedures:

- Group share/brainstorm/journal
 - Define the key terms.
 - Discuss the definitions and give examples of community, culture, sub-culture, immigrant, race, religions, ethnicity.
- Have students listen to the entire invocation
- Select a quote from Pastor Rick Warren’s invocation at President Obama’s inauguration (see example below):

...to remember that we are Americans, united not by race, or religion, or blood, but to our commitment to freedom and justice for all. When we focus on ourselves, when we fight each other,...,forgive us. When we fail to treat our fellow human beings and all the earth with the respect that they deserve, forgive us. And as we face these difficult days ahead, may we have a new birth of clarity in our aims, responsibility in our actions, humility in our approaches, and civility in our attitudes, even when we differ...

 - a. Explain the meaning of the quote.
 - b. How does this quote relate to the United States?
 - c. What do you think are the aims and responsibility of the United States?
 - d. What do you think are your aims and responsibilities as a citizen of this nation? Of this state? Of your community? Of your family?

Evidence of Understanding:

Write a short essay or a poem or make a drawing that reflects the message about the nature of American unity. Student participation in the small and large group discussions as well as the journal prompt.

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service

Read one of the following:

- Second Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln
- First Inaugural Address of Franklin Roosevelt
- Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy
 - Identify the main cause of concern voiced in the inaugural speech you read.
 - Explain any message of hope in the speech.
 - List any particular idea or activity that the speaker is asking of the American people.
 - List any references to the nation's history, past or current, at the time.
 - Identify any references to the rest of the world.