

# CONTENTS

## INTRODUCTION

Contributors	<i>i</i>
Respect, Appreciation & Gratitude	<i>iii</i>
A Welcome Message	<i>v</i>
An Introduction by <i>Christine Sleeter</i>	<i>vi</i>

## GRASSROOTS FOUNDATIONS: PREPARING OURSELVES FOR THE WORK AHEAD

by *Lindsay Smith and Anton Miglietta* 1

### Element One: Grassroots Educators & Justice-Centered Teaching: Who? What? Where? When Why? How?

<b>Overview:</b> A Grassroots Teacher: Learning, Connecting & Growing Together	5
Pedagogical Foundations of the Chicago Grassroots Curriculum Taskforce	8
Justice Centered Teaching Tips and Practices from Ten Successful Urban Educators by <i>Anton Miglietta, Isaura Pulido, Ann Aviles de Bradley, and David Stovall</i>	10
Teacher as Curriculum Gatherer & Creator by <i>Lindsay Smith and Anton Miglietta</i>	20
On the Importance of Mirrors for Students and Teachers by <i>Gregory Michie</i>	25
Dealing with Controversial Topics by <i>Bill Kennedy</i>	28
Making Sense of & Navigating Teacher Evaluation Expectations by <i>Ann Aviles de Bradley</i>	31
Building Respectful Classroom Communities by <i>Lindsay Smith</i>	33
A Note to Educators Working in Scripted Spaces by <i>David Stovall</i>	37
<b>Tool:</b> Unit Design Self-Evaluation & Reflection for a Critical and Cohesive Unit of Study	39

### Element Two: Grounding Learning in Real World Context and Community

<b>Overview:</b> Grounding Learning in Real World Context and Community	46
Inquiring Into Students' Communities First as Learner, then as Learner/Teacher/Supporter by <i>Asif Wilson</i>	50
Learn: A Community Ethnography Project for Educators by <i>Noemi Cortés and Amy Millikan</i>	51
Go Deeper: To be "Relevant" Demands a Healthy Lens of Systemic Analysis by <i>Asif Wilson</i>	53
Making it Real: Grassroots Community Tours Leads to Student Knowledge-Making, Teaching, Skill-Building, and Action-Taking by <i>Asif Wilson</i> (also includes the <i>Grassroots Community Tours</i> guide)	55
Valuing Students Constantly Shifting Identities: Teaching Pop Culture by <i>Brian Horn</i>	68
<b>Tools</b> for Grounding Our Learning	
Critical Themes and Threads for Locally Relevant Unit Topic Development	70
Identify Issues and Make Connections: a local/global issue-based inquiry activity (5 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grades)	72
Generating Student-Based Issues to Study: an issue-based inquiry activity (3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> grades)	75
180+ Justice Centered Topics on Chicago for Student Research and Action	76
Recognizing and Engaging Students Experiencing Homelessness by <i>Ann Aviles de Bradley</i>	82
Supporting Multilingualism in the Classroom by <i>Elizabeth Skinner</i>	85
Academic Accommodations for Learners by <i>Disabilities Opportunities Internetworking Technology</i>	87

## **Element Three: Grassroots Teaching and Learning For, By & With Our Students**

**Overview:** Grassroots Teaching and Learning For, By & With Our Students 89

The Student, the School, and the Purposes of Our Teaching: A Historical and Current Look *by Anton Miglietta* 91

Relevant Brain-Based Education: What? Why? How? When? 108

“I Don’t Radicalize Students, My Students Radicalize Me”: One Teacher’s Testimony *by Xian Barrett* 109

**Tools** to Prioritize Student Voice in Their Own Learning

7 Steps to Students Co-Shaping Curriculum 111

Establishing Curriculum Acuerdos with Students, *adopted from Cynthia Nambo* 113

Determining “Relevance” and Examining Purpose: A step-by-step guide for students and adults 114

Critical Learning Survey (grades 6 to 12) 118

Critical Learning Survey: a shortened version (grades 6 to 12) 123

The Many Sides of Me activity (grades 2 to 5) 125

Unit Evaluation Survey for Students (a learning- and teaching-assessment tool for grades 4 to 12) 126

## **GRASSROOTS METHODS: DESIGNING JUSTICE-CENTERED CURRICULUM IN A STANDARDS-BASED WORLD** *by Alison Dover* 128

### **Element Four: Justice-Centered Approaches to Content-Area Instruction and Grassroots Unit Planning**

**Overview:** Justice-Centered Approaches to Content-Area Instruction 130

Tips to Fully Integrate Standards into the Curriculum *by Anton Miglietta* 132

Commit to Interdisciplinary Curriculum Building *by Bill Kennedy* 137

Content Area Resources

Pedagogical Shifts Emphasized by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) 138

Tips for Critical Mathematics Teaching *by Theodore Chao* 139

Tips for Critical and “Close” Reading *by Lindsay Smith and Bill Kennedy* 143

**Tools** for Curriculum Mapping of Critical and Cohesive Units

Guide to the Critical Unit of Study Project (CUSP) 146

Map A: Grassroots Unit Planning – with descriptors 147

Map A: Grassroots Unit Planning – blank version 149

Map B: Thematic Integration Planning – blank version 151

Social Studies Content Map for Grades 3 to 6 152

**Sample Unit:** Student City, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade interdisciplinary unit (can apply to grades 4 to 6 with additions) 153

**Sample Unit:** Investigating Justice-Making Organizations, literacy & social sciences unit, grades 7 – 12 167

### **Element Five: Justice-Centered Approaches to Assessing Students’ Learning**

**Overview:** Justice-Centered Approaches to Assessing Students’ Learning 177

Assessments: What’s Wrong with Standardized Tests? What’s Needed Instead? What’s Real? *by Cecily Relucio*

*Hensler and Anton Miglietta* 178

A List of Authentic Assessment Ideas 181

Some Culminating Project Ideas 183

## **Sample Assessments for Critical Learning and Skills-Building**

- A Critical Standards-Based Quiz 184
- Letter to a Public Official: An Action-Based Letter Writing Rubric 187
- Letter to a Public Official: A Peer Editing Guide 189

## **Tools for Student Voice in Curriculum and Teaching Evaluation**

- Project Evaluation Survey for Students 190
- also see *Unit Evaluation Survey for Students (Element Three)*

## **Element Six: The Heart of Everyday Life in a Justice-Centered Classroom: Daily Planning**

### **Overview:** The Heart of Everyday Life in a Justice-Centered Classroom: Daily Planning 191

Critical Approaches & Practices Revisited (a graphic organizer) 192

Meaningful Art Integration Guide *by Silvia Gonzalez* 193

Media Arts Integration Tips *by Steve Moon* 197

### **Tools for Daily Lesson Planning for Thematic Project-Based Learning**

Weekly Lesson Planning with Day by Day Overview 201

Intensive Daily Lesson Planning 202

Skills Cluster Map (a tool to assist in mapping out the teaching of standards) 203

A Few Good Ways to Activate Prior Knowledge 205

Daily Reflection Slips (exit slips) 206

## **References 207**