

FACILITATOR GUIDE: The Listening Project

GRADE: 9th – 12th

CONCEPTS & SKILLS

- Understand multiple viewpoints within and across cultures related to important events, recurring dilemmas, and issues.
- Understand how and why events may be interpreted differently depending upon the perspectives of participants, witnesses, reporters, and historians.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Video, The Listening Project- Available on Netflix(instant streaming) or order DVD from Amazon.com (Length is 1 hour)

PRESENTATION:

Humans are social. To some extent we see ourselves as others see us. This documentary, *The Listening Project*, holds up a mirror to the US, showing us how we are viewed by *some* of our neighbors here on Earth. This activity is a chance to see various views from many cultures and respond to what is in the mirror.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Before watching the video, have the group write down how they would like people in other countries to describe the U.S. Include what they believe people in other countries actually think or say about the U.S.
2. Watch the film. Viewers should take notes of surprises, concerns, ideas that are important.
3. Discuss the film. Have viewers team up in pairs and take turns interviewing each other about the film. Possible questions:
 - What issues were raised in this video? Does this video inspire, agitate, or otherwise move you? If so, what did you feel and think? Is there anything you want to change and what is it? Can you try to see the US from the perspective of someone in a different country? Why or why not? What do you need in order to imagine that perspective?
4. Turn the tables- Now the interview questions are, “What do you think about _____ country? Do you think your perception is accurate? From where do your ideas come from concerning other cultures? Have you questioned your assumptions?”

5. Together as a group, make a list categories similar to the following:

- Lessons learned
- Questions raised
- Action for follow-up
- Ideas to pursue

TIME:

90 -120 minutes

PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS:

What?

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So What?

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Now What?

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