

Immigration and Activism



Kristin Rogers

Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy

- Focus on Public Policy
 - Developing engaged citizens that are able to affect change in the world around them
- Capstone Projects
 - 2 weeks focused on one public policy issue
 - 2 teachers/25 students



Activism

- Grade level theme of Activism
- Scholars chose from different topics: Immigration, AIDS/HIV, Juvenile Delinquency, Gangs, and the Iraq War.
- Each group studied the topics and created a plan to affect a change in their community about their topic.
- Group Presentations

Planning a Capstone



- How do we want to be active/affect change?
 - Create a website that would be educational as well as powerful to promote a change in their community.
- What do we want our scholars to know when they leave?
 - A basic history of United States immigration, an understanding of current immigration issues and how they can affect a change.
- How can we use the wealth of resources available to us in Washington D.C.?
 - Call and email! People are more than willing to help!!

Learning about Immigration

- KWL
- Vocabulary
- Timeline
- Citizenship Tests
- Personal Narratives
- Videos



Guest Speakers



- Mayors Office on African Affairs
- George Escobar-Mayors Office of Latino Affairs
- Seth Yu-Asian American LEAD
- Ted Loza-Jim Graham's Office Ward 1
- Christina Wilkes-AYUDA Children's Program Director
- Greg Jacob-Special Assistant to the President



Day Laborers Interviews

- Casa de Maryland-Wheaton Workers Center
- Broke into bilingual groups of 3-4
- Interviewed workers to find out their story and their struggles as an immigrant to the United States.



Immigration Survey

- Scholars created a list of questions about immigration.
- Asked 68 people on the mall and around Federal Triangle.
- Compiled results and posted on the website.

Activism

- Compiled all of the scholars work over the two weeks on an educational website.
- Scholars created posters and a petition putting forth ideas for a solution to the immigration debate.
- Presented to the Chavez 8th grade community and forwarded on to members of the community.

Website

- <http://immigration.capstone.googlepages.com/>