



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Staying Current Activity

Concluding Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is to explore current Aboriginal issues in Canada.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion, group work.
- **Differentiated instruction:**
 - Each student is assigned one media text that they must paraphrase, learning its meaning.
- **Estimated time:** 1 hour
- **Steps:**
 1. Collect media clippings over the course of the week containing news on FNMI peoples in Canada.
 2. Ask students to list any recent occurrences where they have heard about Aboriginal peoples mentioned in the news, especially regarding education. Discuss these issues as a class. Explain to students that it is important to be aware of these issues because only with awareness will there be change.
 3. Divide students into small groups and distribute media clippings to each group.
 4. Ask students to search through the media texts for any mention of Canadian Aboriginal populations. When this information is found, ask them to answer the following suggested questions:
 - What is the title of this text?
 - Who created the text?
 - In what source did you find this text?
 - Who is the audience? How do you know?
 - From whose point of view is the text being presented?
 - How might someone with a different perspective retell what is said in the text? How would a different audience interpret it?
 - What messages are being conveyed?
 - What messages are missing from the text?
 - How does the fact that there is something missing influence how you think about the text and its messages?
 5. When students have completed all of the above questions, bring the class back together and ask students to explain their findings to the class.
 6. When this discussion is complete, explain to students that in the past, mainstream media have often misrepresented Aboriginal peoples. Explain to students that this type of portrayal encourages negative stereotypes and thinking. Ask students to use the knowledge they have learned throughout the course of this lesson to combat these stereotypes because change can start with them.
 7. Find a space in the class to display these media texts whether it be a classroom bulletin board or an FNMI Issues duo-tang. Once compiled, this will act as a reference so that students can look back at the articles as the weeks pass to determine how things are progressing in Canada.