

**Curriculum Unit
Title**

Using Film, Poetry, and Music to Learn About Social Issues Present during Hurricane Katrina

Author

Michelle Wiedenmann

KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.

- Students will understand what the concepts social issues and social injustice
- Students will understand how social injustice was prevalent in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
- Students will use music to help identify the figurative meaning of words
- Students will use photographs to highlight the imagery created in poems
- Students will understand and create a form of art to express tone on a social issue

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT

- What are different types of social issues?
- What social issues arise during natural disasters, in particular with Hurricane Katrina?
- How does the author use photographs, music and poetry to demonstrate their purpose or point of view on the natural disaster?

CONCEPT A

CONCEPT B

CONCEPT C

Understanding Social Issues of Hurricane Katrina using Film

Using music and poetry as an outlet to speak out against social injustice

Using forms of art to express view on current social injustice

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C

What does it mean when a society is just?
What are social issues? What social issues were prominent during Hurricane Katrina?
Why is Hurricane Katrina defined more as a human disaster rather than a natural one? What divisions/faults do we see in our society based on the storm?

Why do people create art?
How does art highlight/make these social issues known?
What is tone? Can you determine the speaker's tone in song and in poetry?

Can you use a form of artistic expression to highlight our tone on a current social issue that is happening in our society?

VOCABULARY A

VOCABULARY A

VOCABULARY A

Social Issues, Social Injustice, Levees, Poverty

Tone, Mood, Lyric Poetry, Free Verse Poetry

Artistic Expression, Murals, Memorial, PSA Announcement

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES

Spike Lee's Documentary *When the Levees Broke: Requiem in Four Acts*, Student Laptops or access to laptops, NOVA Video: "Hurricane Katrina: The Storm That Drowned A City", Journal/Notebooks for students (require students to have one), Copies of lyrics for Tupac "Changes" and Black Eye Peas "What I Call Life", Copies of songs Tupac "Changes" and Black Eye Peas "What I Call Life", Copies of Poems