Steffanie Bristow

**Activity (Grade 7/8): The Sum of All Parts**

Post an oversized illustration of Maslow's hierarchy of needs in a visible location in the classroom. Create a life size illustration of a child (this could be a body tracing – cut out the whole body). Review the levels of Maslow's Heirarchy of needs and have the students provide examples for each – writing them on the illustration of the body. Once all of the needs have been discussed cut the examples apart (the body will now look like a large puzzle) and begin taking the pieces away one by one. Ask the students to reflect on what happens when you take away “meaning...love...self-respect...safety...food... shelter...etc.”

Following the disassembly of the body puzzle, discuss the plight of Native Americans and how it relates to the Hierarchy of Needs. Explore possibilities re-building what has been torn apart.

Objective:  The students will understand Maslow’s hierarchy of needs by deconstructing a human poster and successfully completing a reflective essay.

*Individual Reflection:*

1. What needs are most important to you at this time and why?

2. How do your needs compare to your classmates?

3. How would you feel if someone took away one or more of your needs because they believed another was more important?

4. Could you get that need back? How?

5. Is it possible to give a need back if you're the one who has taken it away?

6. How can we address the injustice that our Native American populations have been subjected to?

7. Many of the "needs" were taken away from Native Americans - In a 2-4 paragraph summary you will imagine you are either a Native American who is trying to get back your needs or an "other" who is trying to assist the Native American's in re-fulfilling their "needs."  Specify the role your are assuming, the needs you are seeking to re-fulfill, and a plan for how you will accomplish your goal.

**Assessment:**

Students will be assessed on

* 1. Participation in the group activity 10 points
  2. Responses to reflective questions 1-6 20 points
  3. Response to essay reflective question 20 points

References:

Nerburn, K. (1994) Neither Wolf Nor Dog. Novato, CA. New World Library.

<http://www.abraham-maslow.com/m_motivation/Hierarchy_of_Needs.asp>