Kathryn Houg

***Lesson Plan***

**Age:** 9-10th grade literature/social studies

**Objective:**

-Students begin AI history unit, while reading *Black Elk Speaks*

-Students understand that Thanksgiving was *not*the cheery, peaceful union we portray it as.

-Students learn about AIM – what they have done and what they do.

**Launch:** Ask students how they celebrate Thanksgiving.  Take polls about students levels of understanding: what happened?  What was Plymouth Rock?  What tribes were involved?  How do they believe the Natives felt?  See what kind of range your students have.  Depending on the population, they may already be more knowledgeable.  In other areas, they may not.  Let them speculate with one another.

**Procedure:**

* + Give a history lesson on the *real*thanksgiving.  Explain why it’s been kept under wraps for so long.  Emphasize that much history is not included in one’s standard social studies textbook.
  + Explain in a brief synopsis the organization *AIM*and their role in advocating for the American Indians.
  + Students will divide into groups and research the following people: Leonard Peltier, Winona LaDuke, Black Elk, Pocahontas, Dennis Banks.
  + Students will gather information about how these people were related to either AIM or European Colonization.
  + Within their groups, students will prepare a 5-7 minute presentation to the class on their person’s stories.
  + Introduce *Black Elk Speaks.*

**Assessment:**

30% participation

30% group work participation (each person is graded individually and grades the other members in their group)

30% presentation