Bill Biolsi ED 5626

Winter 2020 Social Studies Inquiry Center

World Issues: Burakumin of Japan

Grade Level: 12 World Issues

Topic and Theme: Burakumin of Japan & Should some parts of history be allowed to be forgotten?

Learning Center Objectives: This focuses on some parts/people in history that are overlooked. I hope that I will be able to guide my classmates to discuss a topic that is no longer a part of Japanese school curriculum, but has had generational repercussions on their society. Through this examination, I hope the students can extrapolate lessons for other discriminated groups, and the societies that would love to erase their cruelty from memory.

Materials Required: PPT and part of a brief video, shown on my computer.

Procedure:

First, I will ask my classmates to brainstorm what examples of racism/discrimination they can think of. I will ask them to give their ideas of both types & places where the incidents have occurred. I will also ask them if it is possible to ‘rank’ the various types of discrimination. I will ask them to try to give their reasons.

Second, I will ask them to consider Japan. I will try to draw any stereotypes they may have out.

Third, I will introduce the concept of the ‘Burakumin’ (untouchables) and give a brief explanation of how they came about, along with part of a video clip. I will try to explain, as best I can, my understanding, from my 16 years in Japan.

Finally, I will explain how this shameful period is now being allowed to be forgotten and ask them if a painful part of history could be forgotten, should it? What ‘should’ be done? Can these ‘wrongs’ ever be atoned for? I will ask them to try to connect this situation with another, one closer to home, if they can.