

P4wC as an Effective Educational Pedagogy for BLM and COVID-19 discussions in K-12 Education



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INTRODUCTION

- Black Lives Matter Movement and COVID-19 catalyze a need for teaching methods that foster **critical thinking, curiosity**, and nuanced thinking in K-12 classrooms.
- **Philosophy for and with Children (P4wC)** is an educational tool with **potential to address this need**.
- Misconceptions: not teaching PHIL 101 to k-12

RESULTS

- Hours of **interviews**, testimonials, and interview practice
- Created **4 distinct discussion curricula** focusing on BLM and COVID-19 themes
- Compiled **database of P4wC info and literature** for students, educators, and academics
- Distributed database to 4J teacher



TAKE AWAY

- Children are naturally curious, imaginative, and **capable of philosophical thought**
- Tendencies should be nurtured with **implementation of P4wC** methods as educational tool.
- **Pressing**: citizens are increasingly asked to **critically evaluate complex ethical issues** in society (COVID-19 and BLM).

CONCLUSION

- **Defining P4wC**: Student-led discussion facilitation
- Nurtures **wonder, critical thinking**, and **disrupts traditional power dynamics to bolster autonomy**.
- **Change over time**: less critical thinking, more establishing community, encouraging questioning and curiosity over a lifetime.
 - Steps: Establish **intellectually safe community**, present **article** to stimulate thinking, generate questions, **student led discussion** (gently Socratic method), synthesis of learning.
- **Who**: P4wC Hawaii, PLATO, examples in England, South Africa
- **COVID-19/BLM: Not particularly important in a crisis**; should be integrated at all times
 - Children have these questions at all times
 - Parents are witnessing questions more often
 - Caution against therapeutic method
- **Note on virtual facilitation**: initially successful on Zoom
 - Ex: UWash, Ari in Tel Aviv



RESEARCH QUESTION

- What is the current state of P4wC educational pedagogy?
- What are its applications for K-12 education in light of events like Black Lives Matter Movements and COVID-19?

METHODS

- **Conducted interviews with P4wC experts and educators**
- Analyzed current scholarship on P4wC
- **Researched application of P4wC in real-world and virtual settings**
- Observed Zoom demonstrations of P4wC teaching methods.

FURTHER DIRECTIONS

- Increase awareness of p4c teaching methods locally
- Though things like this presentation and database
- Test discussion facilitation
- Test discussion facilitation in classrooms as available

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