Activity - Paper Toss, Facilitator/Teacher Guide

Overview

The goal of this activity is to demonstrate privilege in society, not just during the war years and post-war years but in the present day as well. Learners will be divided up into two groups, the Patricks and the George's. Although the two groups represent two people they also represent entire groups of people, white people with many privileges and indigenous people with much fewer privileges.

Each learner will have to crumple up a piece of paper and will try to throw it into the bin. The groups will be instructed to move back or stay in the same place. Once the learners have received all of the ques they will be asked to try to throw the crumpled piece of paper into the bin from where they stand. It will be much harder for some to get it into the garbage bin than others.

Material Needed:
- Garbage bin
- Paper
- Classroom or larger room

Instruction:

1. Split the class into two groups the Patrick's and the Georges's
2. Explain that although both groups are representing two people, these two people are also representative of a larger picture. Patrick representing indigenous people across Canada and George representing white people across Canada. Explain that although we cannot assume both of these groups and people have experienced the exact same things, this activity is done to show the disparity between the two. For example, not all white people go to university and have good jobs and not all indigenous people suffer from alcohol abuse
3. Ask learners to crumple up a ball of paper
4. Place garbage bin at one end of the room
5. Read ques's from the Que sheet
6. Students will either be asked to take a step back, remain in the same place, or move forward
7. Once Que sheet phrases have been completed ask learners to throw their balls into the bin, some will have an easy throw and some a difficult one
8. This will show that one person/groups have it easier than the other person/group
9. Ask learners to clean up and return to their seat for activity deconstruction