

Human Rights Through Social Justice

Lesson 4: Profiles in Courage: Filipino Women in The Resistance During World War II

Lesson Description:

This lesson examines examples of female leadership and strength during the Second World War and focuses on female Filipino resistance fighters who fought against the occupying Japanese forces in the Philippines. Apart from resisting military conquest, female resistance fighters battled gendered norms. Sexist norms resulted in underestimating their contributions to the resistance, exposed them to acts of gender-based violence from the Japanese Military, as well as hostility from their male counterparts. The lesson explores themes of identity and membership as well as social action and participation (and similar responses against injustice). By drawing attention to some examples of female leadership, the workshop will engender student reflection about some of the challenges people may face when deciding to get involved in civic, social action and rights advocacy. Likewise, it will give them a basic idea of some of the benefits that can emerge from human rights advocacy.

Core Question(s):

- What are the challenges of social action and civic participation, particularly when the persons deciding to take action need to overcome hurdles to their participation/civic engagement on account of gender (or other similar barriers such as race, ethnicity and class)?
- Gain insights about what marginalized groups, and society at large can gain from the social action/civic engagement of its most marginalized groups at the social as well as the individual/personal level.

Learning Goals:

Competencies: Historical Thinking

Historical Significance	Cause & Consequence	Continuity & Change	Historical Perspective
Using primary and secondary sources	Through inquiry	Through inquiry	Through inquiry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determine & explain the importance of people, events/developments or ideas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assess the impact of the past and on the present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluate how importance may shift for various people and over time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identify various causes using one or more accounts of the event or development <input type="checkbox"/> Explain both intended and unintended consequences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assess the relative influence of various causes <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate the impact of various consequences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compare what has changed and what has stayed the same over a period of time (explain why) <input type="checkbox"/> Determine using sound inferences from multiple sources <input type="checkbox"/> Assess how an event may involve progress for some people or groups and decline for others	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explain reasons for then and now ideas and beliefs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infer past viewpoints using varied sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analyze how and why of ideas and beliefs in a particular time and why they may be different from today (context) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analyze the tension that can exist between conflicting past and present-day viewpoints about history (presentism)

Materials

- Profiles of Filipino Women in the Resistance, from Stacey Ann Batterina Salas, The Unsung Heroics of Filipino Resistance Fighters during the Pacific War, Pacific Atrocities Education (PAC) 2019.
- Guerilyeras! Filipina Women Warriors of World War II. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xby6pr8AS2U>
- Facilitator's Notes
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Assignment/ Worksheet
- Rubric

(All videos in this lesson require access to wifi)

Materials Extension

- A.R.M. MacCartney, et.al., Teaching Civic Engagement: From Student to Active Citizen, 2012.
- Jennifer Gonzales, A Collection of Resources for Teaching Social Justice, Cult of Pedagogy, 2011, <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/social-justice-resources/>
- Women and War , Filipinas Heritage Gallery from the Ayala Museum, <https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/women-and-war-filipinas-heritage-library/ZwKyk5CtcXJlJw?hl=en>
- Resources for teaching Civics Education and Social Action
- Archival Sources

Activity	Grouping			Approach (Pedagogy)	Materials
	W	S	I		
<p>Activity 1: Warm up Exercise (Slides/ Questions)</p>	✓			<p>Begin by asking students about a cause that they feel strongly about. Using the prompt questions provided, instruct the students to raise their hands, or to go to a designated part of the room if their answer is Yes or No for each prompt. Encourage students to think about both the importance and the risks of public participation. Ask some student to explain/share the reason for their answer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator's Notes • Prompt Questions about Social Action and Participation
<p>Discussion/ Reflection</p>		✓		<p>Divide the class into smaller groups and ask them to discuss their responses to the activity, and to be ready to share their group's responses to these two discussion/ reflection questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who can participate in protests and engage in social action? • Are the consequences of participation/ non-participation the same for everybody? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout Activity Worksheet
<p>Activity 2: Input/ Mini Lecture</p> <p>Profiles in Courage: Filipino Women in the Resistance during World War II</p>	✓			<p>Give the students an overview of Filipino women's participation in the resistance during World War II.</p> <p>The presentation ends with connections to the topic of Overcoming Barriers to Public Participation and Social Action and participants' responses in the previous small group activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide presentation • Facilitator's Notes • Supplementary Material: Guerilyeras! Filipina Women Warriors of World War II https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xby6pr8AS2U

Activity	Grouping			Approach (Pedagogy)	Materials
	W	S	I		
Activity 3: Game Assessment: Memory Game	✓			Use this game to wrap up the lesson on Filipino Women's participation in the resistance during World War II.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slide presentation
Activity 4: Contemporary Examples of Women's Activism and Public Participation (Assignment Extension)	✓			<p>Assign participants to do research about a well-known female (person of colour) activist to design a poster about their chosen activist, using the assignment guide/worksheet.</p> <p>The following is a list of suggested female activists of colour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Septima Clark Rowena Chiu Malala Yousufzai Chanel Miller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment Worksheet Assignment Guide and Rubric Slide Presentation AWID Website (On Women Human Rights Defenders, see link below)

(W) Whole group (S) Small group (I) Individual

Extension Learning Activity: Open-ended Inquiry Project

Ongoing threats faced by Women Human Rights Defenders:

According to a study by The [Association for Women's Rights in Development \(AWID\)](#), women human rights defenders face the following risks:

- Physical assault and death
- Intimidation and harassment, including in online spaces
- Judicial harassment and criminalization
- Burnout

Poster Gallery Walk and Post-it Comments:

Invite the participants to view each other's posters and distribute post it notes, asking students to leave comments and reflections about any aspect of the featured activists' life/work that struck them the most, and what their leadership and/or activism means to them.

Online Learning Option:

Using the google slide template, help students create a virtual exhibit of their posters. While viewing the different posters, participants can leave comments online (using the comment tool on shared google slides).

Bibliography

Lanzona, Vina. "Capturing the Huk Amazons: Representing Women Warriors in the Philippines, 1940s-1950s." *South East Asia Research*. vol.17, no.2, 2018.

Lindio-McGovern, Ligaya. *Filipino Peasant Women Exploitation and Resistance*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997.

Salinas, Stacey A.B. *Pinay Guerilleras, The Unsung Heroics of Filipina Resistance Fighters During the Pacific War*. Pacific Atrocities Education, 2019.

"Women Human Rights Defenders." The Association for Women's Rights in Development, 2020. <https://www.awid.org/special-focus-sections/women-human-rights-defenders>.