

SOCIAL JUSTICE TOOL KIT

- **Start small-** Take one unit/lesson that you already do and modify it. You don't have to reinvent the wheel completely.
- **Be willing to work outside your comfort zone-** But not too far! Challenge yourself to try something different and take risks, but don't feel pressure to jump into the deep end right away.
- **Stay flexible-** Be willing to adjust your plan based on student interest, reaction, and understanding.
- **Acknowledge your own judgments, opinions, and beliefs-** It is important to remember that your goal is to empower the students to think for themselves, not to force them to adopt your beliefs.
- **Know your students-** It is critical to maintain genuine knowledge of the students and their interests, experiences, beliefs, etc.
- **Stay current in relevant topics and issues-** Social justice lessons/units can and should evolve over time to maintain relevancy.
- **Tell the students what you're doing-** Let them know when you're trying something new. Make sure they know why they're doing what they're doing. This will make you more comfortable and will make them feel like they are part of the process.
- **Be patient with yourself and the students-** It's okay if something doesn't work perfectly the first time.
- **Advocate-** Tell everyone about what you're doing- administrators, colleagues, parents, friends, etc. You'll be surprised how much support you get.
- **Reflect, Reflect, Reflect-** Acknowledge what worked and what didn't, what was missing and what was unnecessary, what the students responded too and what they didn't.
- **Ask for and welcome student feedback-** Ultimately, what the students get out of the experience is most important. Try to assess student interest and understanding throughout the lesson/unit as well as at the end.