Why are some people treated differently than others?

The Tale of O

SUMMARY
Students identify minority groups in their communities and investigate some aspects of their experience.

OBJECTIVES
Students will . . .
- View the “Tale of O” presentation depicting how it might feel to be different from the majority group.
- Brainstorm other situations in which people might feel different and create a new “Tale of O.”
- Present their “Tale of O” to the class for discussion.

PREPARATION
Make a set of six overheads for The Tale of O - An O in a world of X’s.
Have resources for research into minority groups in Oregon.
See if a school counselor, local Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, or community organizations may be able to assist with information and resources.

MATERIALS
Chart paper or blank overheads
The Tale of O overheads

COMPUTER USE
Optional: Internet for research

SUBJECT AREAS
Any

TIME REQUIRED
120 minutes

GROUP SIZE
Class, group

STEPS

1. Show students the The Tale of O - An O in a world of X’s series of seven overheads. Read the text, without any discussion.

2. Ask students to write down what they thought the O’s and X’s represent. (Likely suggestions are racial or ethnic difference, male/female, old/young, educated/uneducated, cultural or language difference, sick/healthy, abled/disabled, starting at new school or workplace.) Ask students to share their ideas and discuss. Ask students to identify other situations where someone can experience being different. Record ideas on a board, chart, or overhead.

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3. Explain to students that they are to work in pairs and choose one situation in which people might feel “different” from the brainstormed list. They should not share their choices with others. The pairs then devise two to five more situations, like those in The Tale of O series, to represent experiences the different individuals might have. For example, if O is disabled, the X’s could be shown playing sports with O on the sidelines; if O is a woman, the X’s (men) could be shown having a game of golf together. These new situations will be put onto charts or overheads and shown to the rest of the class for them to guess which groups are being portrayed.

4. Show the situations one at a time, to the class. Ask for guesses about the minority group depicted and the reasons for that choice. Discuss.

5. Ask students in their pairs to investigate some of the issues raised (for example, use of language, income levels, who exercises power in society, access to education, employment, social mores) for a racial, social, or religious minority group in Oregon. Tell them that they will be reporting their findings back to the class.

6. Invite a counselor or administrator to view the students’ The Tale of O scenarios and to hear the student groups’ reports on a minority group when they are presented to the rest of the class. Ask them to talk with the class about school policies and programs designed to protect the rights of minority groups and enhance mutual understanding between different groups in the school.

**Variations**

1. Invite representatives of the different groups to talk with the class.
2. Work with the class to compile a longer The Tale of O - An O in a World of X’s presentation using ideas generated by students. Arrange for this to be shown to another class with students facilitating the discussion after it.

**Allied Activities**

- I Can Do It!
- I Have Attitudes
- I’m a Special Person
- Occupations for Terry

**Assessment Strategy**

Students will:

- Create multiple depictions of their own versions of The Tale of O.

**Overheads**

The Tale of O – An O in a world of X’s

**Sorting**

- **Subject**: Any
- **Grade Levels**: 7, 8
- **CIS Components**: None

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STANDARDS

CRLS:
  Personal Management, Communication, Employment Foundations

SCANS:
  Information, Interpersonal, Systems, Basic Skills, Thinking Skills

NCDG:
  Skills to interact positively with others, Understanding the importance of growth and change

ASCA:
  Career Development, Personal and Social Development

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Bloom’s Taxonomy: Evaluation

Intellectual Operation: Summarization, Illustration, Prediction
The Tale of O

An O in a world of X’s
...feels very strange...
are they looking at me?... talking about me?...
I wonder what they are thinking...
How will I fit in?...
will they want to include me?...
...or should I make the first move towards them?...
There’s only one of me...
perhaps I have to become more like them...
Oh! There’s another O - that makes all the difference!......