

Personal Leadership Activity

MUSIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Overview

A series of listening and discussion exercises that explore the historical significance of music in various social movements

Purpose

To generate an awareness and appreciation of music as a driving force behind social change

Time Required

15–45 minutes, dependent on group

Materials

Music with social justice themes, CD/cassette player

WHAT	HOW	MATERIALS
Listening & Discussion Exercises	<p>Have people bring in music with social justice themes. As trainer, bring music from a variety of movements and traditions that participants may not be familiar with (e.g., civil rights, labor, gay/lesbian/bi/transgender, hip-hop, folk music from the 50's and 60's, songs from farm workers, songs of immigration, or Celtic songs).</p> <p><i>Option 1</i> Discuss the origin and messages of the music participants brought.</p> <p><i>Option 2</i> Discuss the role of music in various social justice movements.</p> <p><i>Option 3</i> Play selected pieces of music and use the following questions for in-depth reflection on specific songs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ What did you hear in the music? ★ What did you feel in the music? ★ What themes did you identify? ★ How does the music support action? ★ How does the music and the movement it represents support healing? ★ What lessons for your work can you take from these songs? ★ How can you use music as a way to educate others? 	<p>Music with social justice themes</p> <p>CD/cassette player</p>

WHAT	HOW	MATERIALS
	<p><i>Option 4</i></p> <p>Trace the path of music history and make connections to your culture. Have participants pick a favorite music style and research its roots. Select different traditions and ask, What major forces and people were influencing this music 50 years ago? 100 years ago?</p> <p>NOTE: These exercises may be stand-alone activities or may be combined for a longer, more in-depth workshop.</p>	