

Title

Integrity: A Lakota Value.

Theme

Integrity as a value in Lakota culture.

Duration

One hour-long session.

Goal

Students will gain an understanding of the value of integrity (or honor) in Lakota culture.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Define integrity as a value in Lakota society.
- Give examples of how integrity functioned as a value in Lakota society.
- Apply the value of integrity in their own lives.

Cultural Concept

Integrity as a behavior or trait was highly valued in Lakota culture.

Cultural Background

Traditional Lakota society is based on a highly ordered system of morality, which draws from the Lakota religion and its precepts. Out of a holistic view of the universe, where everything is connected and everything is sacred, comes the requirement that Lakota people behave and act in certain ways, engendering a system of values of what it means to be a good Lakota. These cultural values included, among other values: integrity, respect, courage, wisdom, humility, generosity, and compassion. We will focus on integrity as a specific value that will be of interest to a wide audience.

Student Activities

- Students will read an excerpt from Joseph Marshall III's book on the value of integrity/honor, or, read an excerpt from the "Values of Dakota Society" from the course packet.
- Large group activity: come up with a consensus definition of integrity, based on the reading
- Answer the questions: in Lakota culture, how might a man act with integrity/honor? How might a woman act with integrity/honor?
- Read excerpts from *Waterlilly* and *The Journey of Crazy Horse*.
- Have people move around to match up with someone they're not sitting next to.
- In pairs, come up with traits or examples of integrity from *Waterlilly* or *The Journey of Crazy Horse*.
- Write up examples on the board.
- For 3-5 minutes at the end of the session, have everyone write about how they might apply the Lakota examples of integrity in their own lives.

Resources

- Whiteboard: for writing examples of integrity in Lakota society.
- Reading excerpts.
- Pen and paper.

References

- Deloria, E. C. (1988). *Waterlily*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
- Malan, V. D. & Jesser, C. J. (1959). Values in Dakota society [excerpt from A study of Dakota values]. In *The Dakota Indian religion* (Rural Sociology Department Agricultural Experiment Station, Bulletin 473, pp. 23-29). Brookings: South Dakota State College.
- Marshall, J.M. (2002). *The Lakota way*. New York: Penguin.
- Marshall, J. M. (2004). *The journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota history*. New York: Viking Press.

Assessment

The reflection paper from the last activity in class will be the formal assessment.

Developer

Pete McDonnell

Date

5 June 2009

Additional Information

Some definitions of Lakota words for the English word *integrity*:

Owothanla: to be straight; to be upright, to have integrity, be honest, just candid, outright, fair. (from New Lakota Dictionary, 2008)

OR

From Joseph Marshall III (Sicangu/Oglala Lakota):

Wayuonihan - "To have integrity, to have an honest and upright character." (honor)

Note: This is the first in a series of lesson plans on traditional Lakota values. Further sessions will cover other values in Lakota society such as respect, courage, wisdom, humility, generosity, and compassion.