

Blinded by Science: Scientists, their Experiments, and Societal Perception of their Ethics, 2009

Conchita Austin

Synopsis

My original purpose of generating this unit is to support students' knowledge and comprehension of scientists, their lives, their discoveries, and their impact on society through the vehicle of dramatic presentation. This curriculum unit will not only foster inquiry and a basic understanding of scientific concepts, but also increase basic knowledge of who these scientists are and how society views and are affected by them.

In the first part of the unit, students will choose and research a specific scientist which has made a prominent contribution to Biology and create a dramatic recreation of the experiment for which that particular scientist is most known for. In the second part of this unit, students will view three videos: Lorenzo's Oil, Miss Evers' Boys, and GATTACA. The students will then discuss the ethical dilemma presented by these works in a Socratic Seminar format.

I want my students to have a well-round view of what science is and what it is to be a scientist. I would also like my students to appreciate the ethical dilemmas which occur within the scientific community and its impact on society and our individual lives. The ultimate coup would be to reveal to each individual student that he or she is capable of sharing that stage as we study and do science, we are scientists as well. It is my hope that this curriculum unit will open dialog for my students as well as provide a greater appreciation and identification with science and the scientist.