

Peacemakers: Students Voices of Change

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Introduction

“The courage to speak, the wisdom to write. The power to change’ Christina Baldwin *Starcatcher*: making Sense of Our Lives through the Power of Practice of Story.

This quote makes one think of the importance of the power of one's voice and the power of one's story. The quote gives one hope and strength to continue the journey toward love, peace, respect and understand for one another. These goals will be explored and accomplished in after school club entitled Student Question Bridge through the My Peacebuilders Lessons and training. Students selected for this project will learn and acknowledge the societal inequalities, grow into student leaders that will be empowered to create change in their communities and if desired become certified Peacebuilders. Students will become unified by using their voices, organizing and implementing a social justice cause that will impact others and beyond.

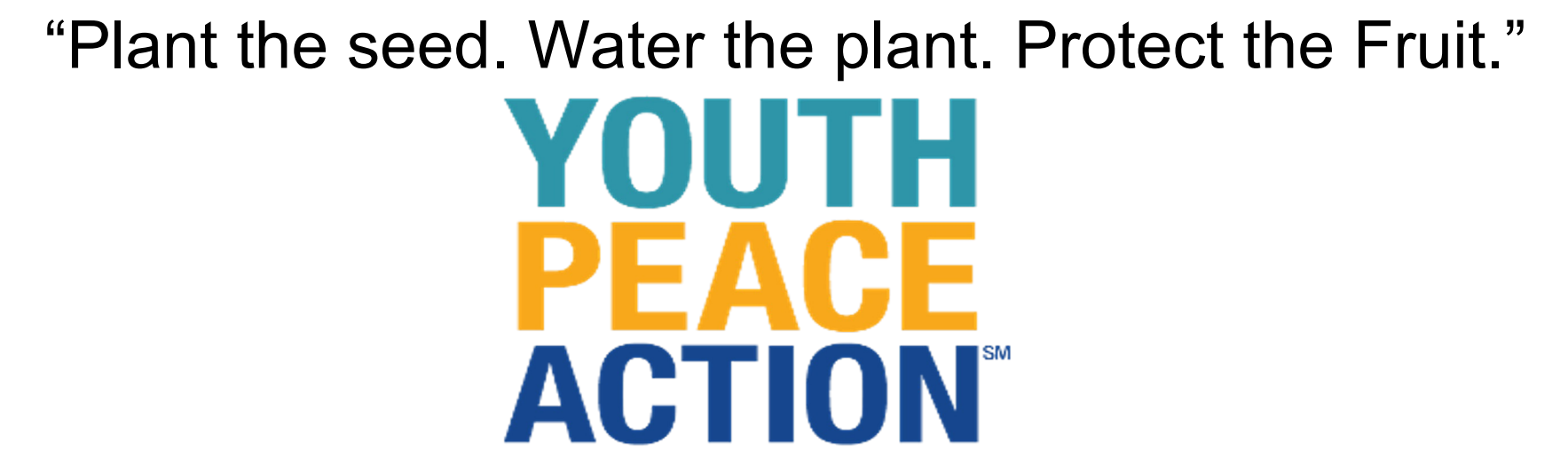
Learning Objectives

Students will explore anti- narratives through My Peacebuilders foundations as a part of the Student Question Bridge Project. The Peacebuilders activities will bridge and create these relationships. Students will explore their commonalities of being high school and preparing for life beyond high school. While fostering conversations around inequalities in public policies, education and resources. Students from different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds will examine past and present societal issues. Students will find a unifying social justice cause to organize and implement that will impact their communities.



Research/Data Collection

The following NewGen Peacebuilders Experience Activity Guide Lessons will be implemented to Student Question Bridge participants: Where Do You Stand? lesson introduces the topic of human rights. Making the Case of Youth as Peacebuilders. This lesson gives students opportunity to pitch their case about why they should be included in peacebuilding. Analyzing Peace Project Case Studies. This assist students understanding and developing a peace project. “ I Care About...I Care Because...” Balloons. teaches students how to articulate their hopes for peacebuilding. The Violence/Peace Wall students will illustrate 200+ years of historical violence. Personal Values Assessment and Healing Through Values these lessons will evaluate student's values as a means of creating tools for healing themselves and others.



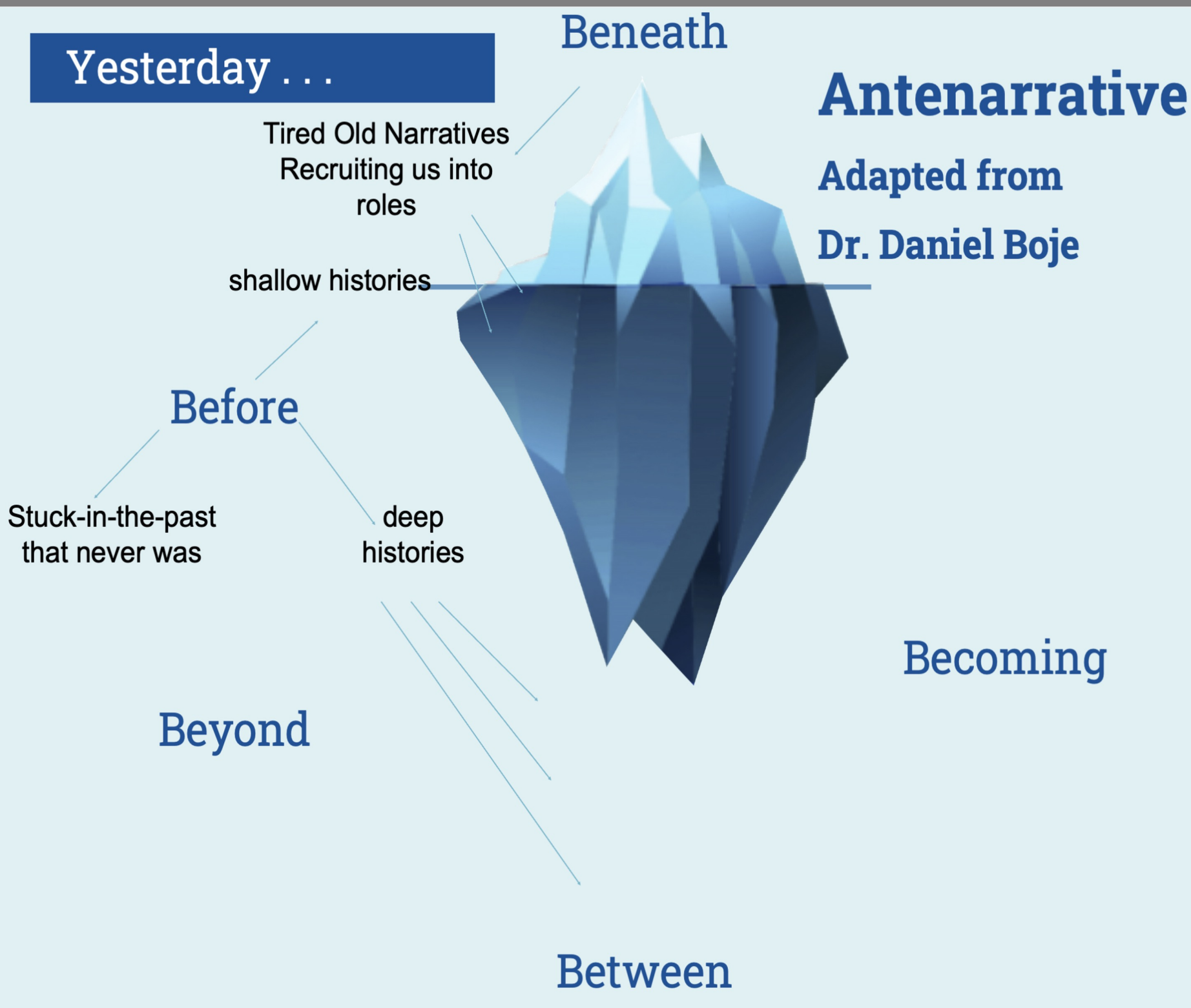
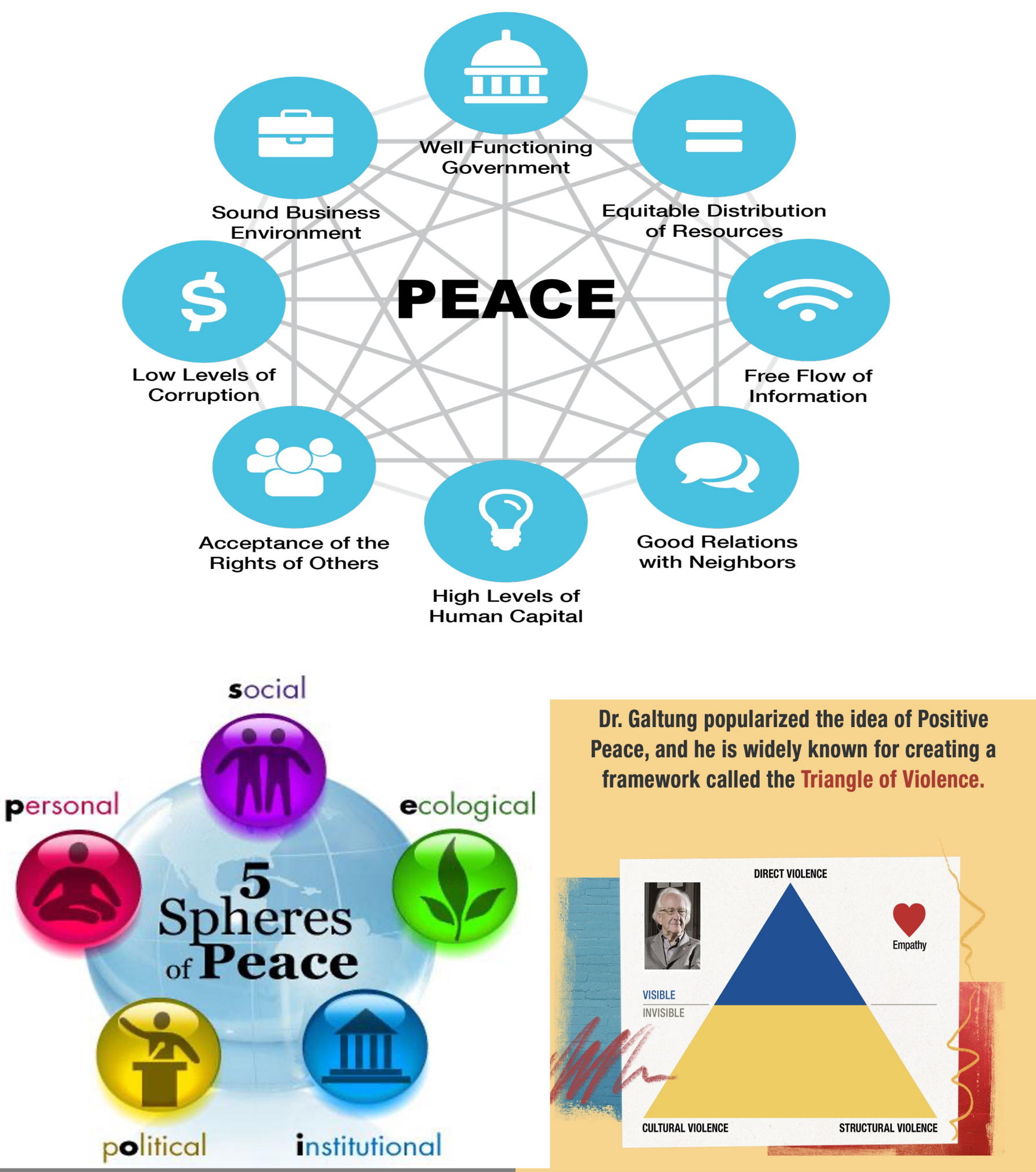
Nature of Student Inquiry

20 students, various grade levels, from West Charlotte Public High School and 20 students from Cannon Private High School will participate in weekly afterschool “Chat and Snack” sessions. Both in person and via zoom Students from West Charlotte Public High School and Cannon Private High School (Ellen Lofln Cannon HS Co-Teacher) are participants in the Student Question Bridge Project 2019-2022.



Classroom Implementation

These weekly discusses will include My Peacebuilder Foundation course using the following lesson tools: Cultural Identity, Exercise I CARE, and ICARE Because, Personal Value Assessment and Where Do You Stand. In addition, student will listen via audible books and along with reading paperback copy of **Just Mercy** and **A Perilous Path: Talking Race, Inequality and the Law** by Bryan Stevenson. In addition, students will view the following documentaries and films: **King in the Wilderness, Black Power Mixtape, What's Your Blueprint for Life, Judas and the Black Messiah, Willington on Fire**. Then the students will engage in Peacebuilder activities around types of violence specified in the 5 Spheres (Individual, Personal, Social, Institutional, Political and Ecological), the 8 Pillars of Peace and Galtung's Triangle of Violence. Students will examine and deconstruct stereotypes as well as dismantle oppressive narratives to become a collective catalysts for change. Students will work in a platform for constructive in-depth conversations. Additionally, students also will foster and participant in the Racial Justice Essay Contest through The Equal Justice Initiative and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Remembrance Project within each school.



Evaluation and Results

This project will cultivate long-lasting collaborative and compassionate future leaders. Students can become certified as Peace Builders and Ambassadors. Students will engage in a documentary of the project through Harvey Gantt Center.

- Student Question Bridge Project Agenda
2022-2023
- Sept: Intro Kick-Off Harvey Gantt Museum
 - Oct: Walking Art Tour of Uptown Charlotte
 - Nov: West Charlotte visit Cannon Winter Play
 - Dec: Community Outreach: Block Love
 - Jan: Team Building- Roller Skating @ Kates
 - Feb: Cannon visit West Charlotte Black History Month Event
 - March: Team Building-Black Urban Rodeo, Charlotte
 - April: 4 Day Civil Rights Tour (Alabama)/ EJI Essay Contest

Future Project Plans Beyond 2023: Recruitment of new and existing students. Grant writing for future project goals. Maintenance of groups established community outreach project.

References

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy: Adapted for Young People: A True Story of the Fight for Justice*. Delacorte Press, 2018. Ifill, Sherrilyn A., et al. *A Perilous Path: Talking Race, Inequality, and the Law*. The New Press, 2018. “The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975.” “King of the Wilderness, 2018. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Remember Project, 2021. Equal Justice Initiative: Legacy Museum. NewGenPeacebuilder. 2021. *My Peacebuilder Foundations Online Course*. Accessed June 2022. <https://youthpeaceaction.thinkific.com>.