



Module 3, Unit 3, Lesson Plan 2

Committing to Nonviolent Social Change (Grades 6-12)

Learning Targets/Objectives:

- Reflect on self-interests in order to form personal commitment statements

Success Criteria:

- Participate in a Socratic seminar about how King's six principles and six steps of nonviolence can be implemented as a way of life

Lesson Content Overview:

In 1967 during a staff conference, Dr. King said, "Now is the time to really educate and train people in nonviolence as the more noble path to social justice."

Nonviolence is aggressive and assertive when it challenges policies, practices, and conditions, denying people their full human dignity. Committing to nonviolence will mean addressing all areas of your life. It is a commitment to use nonviolence to bring about social change in your personal life, community, and nation.

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Start today by committing to your own "I will" statements .

Personal Commitment

I will ...

- Make positive affirmations for myself and about others
- Honor truth and refuse to gossip and spread rumors
- Respect my siblings' and parent's privacy and possessions
- Speak positive and encouraging words and
- Propose to never use derogatory sayings or negative statements about others or myself

"Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Commitment

I will ...

- Be available to help resolve issues of conflict in my neighborhood.
- Encourage my friends and neighbors to find commonality to promote unity - What do we have in common? Do we like to play softball, bowl, plan social gatherings, etc.?
- Participate in social service opportunities such as feeding the hungry, donating one hour a month to a local senior citizen's home, or writing letters for the mentally or physically challenged

Global Commitment

I will

- Give back by volunteering with local organizations with a national reach - The King Center, Habitat for Humanity, Corporation for National and Community Service, and Youth Service America.
- Get involved in activities for youth available in local, state, and national elections.
- Speak up for the rights of the disabled, elderly, and under-represented by passing out literature to raise awareness

These are just a few things that you can do to start your new journey in the pursuit of making social change through nonviolent means as you embrace the philosophy and principles in Nonviolence365®. We encourage you to grow your list daily.

Instructional Sequence:

Opener:

Students should read the Lesson Content Overview. The teacher should then lead a class discussion on the reading. Questions should focus on the difference between Personal Commitment, Community Commitment, and Global Commitment.

Small Group Collaboration:

Working in groups of three to four, students should re-read the Six Principles of Nonviolence and Six Steps to Nonviolent Social Change. Then, they must respond to the following set of questions:

1. Select a current issue of concern and describe in detail how you would use Step One

- a. Information Gathering and Step Two-
Education

2. What will you give of yourself to strengthen your personal commitment?

- a. Donate time
- b. Donate energy
- c. Donate gifts or talents

3. What form of direct action would you use, if any?

4. How does modern technology impact Step One -Information Gathering and Step Two -
Education today vs . how it was done during the civil rights era?

5. How would you determine and explain your negotiating points?

Formative Assessment:

- Socratic Seminar: Using the following Dr. King quote, initiate a discussion in which students and illustrate their understanding of the learning target and success criteria.

It seems that I can hear a voice saying to America – you started out right. You wrote in your Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But, America, you strayed away from that sublime principle. You left the house of your great heritage and strayed away in a far country of segregation and discrimination .

Martin Luther King, Jr. - *The Measure of a Man*

Adaptations for Student Needs

IEP:

- Sizes of student groups range
- Students team up with a peer partner, while others would prefer to work individually.
- There is a variety of small-group work
- Chunking information
- Visual cues and wait time
- Visual supports (maps, images, PowerPoint slides, handouts)
- Assessments will be modified, and students given extra time

ELD

- Modified/simplified reading material
- Content-related lists/handouts of key terms
- Text is supported by visuals and connected to real-life experiences

