

Classwork for June 1 – June 5, 2020

Dear ICL Students:

As you may have already seen, our country is reeling into new forms of social disturbances in response to the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. As we come to a close of the school year, please think carefully about the number of times we spoke about the killing of unarmed African Americans by police officers. Consider how various leaders have responded to these killings; consider the silence and the inaction that is prevalent whenever this occurs. I would also like you to consider the “privilege” that you might have if these killings don’t frighten you enough to avoid going out or if you don’t avoid interactions with the police.

I also ask that you don’t make the mistake to think there is all of a sudden a ‘rise’ in police killings. These killings have been going on for over 400 years but the only difference now is that people are capturing them on video more often.

This country has serious problems and the racial divide doesn’t seem to be going away. As a young adult, these realities made me reflect deeply about what I could do in my life to help the situation, which is why I went into teaching. However, I want you to consider the same question in whatever job or position you hold now and in the future. Inaction and silence are obviously not solutions and if we continue to turn our blind eye to these matters, they will not only persist, but they will get worse.

I know this may seem cliché, but if we fail to grasp the wisdom behind Dr. King’s message, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” then we fail at not repeating the same mistakes from history. There are two very important factors that I believe are necessary if we want to offer any hope for the future. First, we need education; and second, we need a democracy that works. These are two fundamental things that we can all commit to today. For people who understand cultural diversity, who know how to appreciate it and navigate it, your example is an ambassadorship of humanity. Your lives must be shining examples for others to see and learn from, and to live with the understanding that all people deserve respect and dignity. Furthermore, your participation in the governance and leadership of your community, city, state, and country, is a required responsibility we must take personally. The problems of this country and the world will not go away overnight. However, you all have the power to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

As you grow into adults you will be exposed to a vast amount of new information about the world that you didn’t know. It is easy for many people to become discouraged when they realize how great the social obstacles are to achieve a palpable change. But feeling helpless in

the face of adversity can never be your attitude. Hope requires stubborn persistence and the temptation to give up must be resisted.

Finally, you may have noticed that I have raised the issue of *empathy* many times throughout the course. It was intentional. At the beginning of the school year I asked the question, “What is culture?” Many of you gave varying definitions but I never officially defined it for you because I wanted it to be an open ended question for the year. As you may have now realized, culture is what we make it to be. If we are to truly understand the peaceful movements that have led to fundamental change in this world, then we must understand that the fundamental driving force is empathy. This is why your life matters and this is why other people’s lives matter. And while anger could easily dissolve our empathetic nature, we must work hard at tempering this anger by redirecting it towards injustice. Fighting injustice through nonviolence is ultimately an empathetic act.

Please do not ignore the signs of what is yet to come. We are facing the greatest pandemic in over 100 years, the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression, the persistent racial unrest that is destroying communities and people, the political divide in the upcoming election, and the open rejection of facts and truth. These are problems that will require a collective effort by all people and it is my hope that you all become agents of change.

Sincerely,

Dr Valverde

Please watch: <https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2020/05/30/keisha-lance-bottoms-full-address-atlanta-protests-vpx.wgcl>

Please watch: <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/killer-mike-speech-atlanta-protestors-press-conference-1007816/>

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FINAL ASSIGNMENT IN ONE GOOGLE DOC

Letter – Please write me a letter and feel free to share any thoughts you wish to convey.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- **GRADES:** Please don't freak-out about grades this upcoming week. I will begin to add the research paper grades to the Gradebook on Aeries. However, not all papers are graded. Keep in mind that I still need to add journal grades and participating as well. The reality is that Aeries does not know about the grading policy in effect for the quarantine. However, your final grade will be either your 10-week grade or higher (if earned). Most grades should be finalized by June 8th. If your essay grade is listed, you may open your submitted Google Doc to see the grading rubric.
- Seniors need to return their textbooks, chromebooks, library books and pay and fees owed by 3:00 pm on June 5th in order to participate in the Pop-Up Graduation ceremony and to receive their diploma. See Dr. Tarvyd's email for the link to sign up. Here is the schedule:

June 1st - no appointments

June 2 - 12th grade appointments (9:00am-1pm)

June 3 - 12th grade appointments (9:00am-1pm)

June 4 - all grades (9:00am-1pm) (12-1pm lunch) (1:00-3:30pm)

June 5 - all grades (9:00am-12pm) (12-1pm lunch) (1:00-3:30pm)

June 8-12 - all grades (9:00am-1pm)

- Seniors will pick up their Master Envelope on June 8th. This will include yearbook, cap and gown, stoles, CSF cords, certificates, etc.). Appointment times will be emailed out to you. Pay attention to the appointment time and location as there will be multiple distribution points.
- Virtual Yearbook signing party. See Dr Tarvyd's email to sign up.

- Airport Marina Honda/Ford wants to honor you!!!! They would like to project your picture and name on their digital billboard off the 405 FWY, just south of the Slauson exit. Please email your picture and name to: **Dawn@cpmckahan.com**. You also need to send in a consent form that can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10T-QMtcmg4MaNqvHdXKr6yzDdvK2f0OD/view>