

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, June 23, 2017

Print Replica Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Article Title: **Candidates react with sorrow, concern, calls for change**

Section: NW Tuesday, B4

****Please review the article prior to starting the lesson in your classroom, to determine whether the content is appropriate for your students and grade level.***

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will debate whether the SPD could've handled this situation differently.
- ✓ Students will discuss whether racism exists today.
- ✓ Students will talk about how they feel about police shootings and how things can be done differently.
- ✓ Students will review where the gaps are in the mental health system and how we're failing those that need care.

CCSS Standards

Social Studies EALR 1: Civics

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

Social Studies EALR 3: Geography

Understands the cultural universals of place, time, family life, economics, communication, arts, recreation, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, government, and education.

Social Studies EALR 4: History

- Analyzes the motives and interests behind an interpretation of a recent event.

Social Studies EALR 5: Social Studies

- Analyzes consequences of positions on an issue or event.
- Analyzes the short-term and long-term implications of decisions affecting the global community.

Vocabulary

Look up the definition for **sanctity**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"My heart weighs heavy. The **sanctity** of human life must be at the forefront of all things," Bob Hasegawa, a state senator, posted on Facebook.

Sanctity definition:

New Sentence:

Pre-Reading Questions:

McGinn added, “We cannot ignore that racism is real. It is a deeply uncomfortable topic for many, but it is not something we can sweep aside. Which means that this can’t be solved by any one policy change or consent decree alone. This requires sustained engagement by all of us.”

- How do you see racism persist in today’s society?
- What does McGinn mean when he says it can’t be solved by any one policy change, it requires sustained engagement by all of us?

Comprehension Questions:

1. Candidates for Seattle mayor are reacting to the fatal shooting Sunday by police officers. Who was shot and killed?
2. What are the details from the incident?
3. “As with any officer-involved shooting, there must be a full and fair inquiry into the circumstances and the need for deadly force. This is why we must continue pursuing transparency and reforms in SPD, so that a community shaken by loss can be assured their concerns are being addressed, and we can begin to rebuild trust between our police force and our citizens.”
4. As with any officer-involved shooting, what must be involved in the investigation?
5. The hashtag #SayHer-Name is used widely on social media to raise awareness about what?
6. The police department was placed under a federal consent decree in 2012, after a Department of Justice investigation found officers were routinely engaging in what?

Class Discussion Questions or Journal/Essay Prompts:

- ***Why do you think there are so many deadly police shootings recently, especially those of African-American backgrounds?***
- ***How does this impact how you feel about the police?***
- ***Are you scared? Why or why not?***
- ***Does racism exist? Why or why not?***

SPD officers are given the option of carrying a Taser, pepper spray or a baton as a less-then-lethal option.

- Why didn’t they choose to use any of these if they felt she was dangerous?

The officers were responding to Lyles' call Sunday morning reporting an attempted burglary at her fourth-floor apartment. At some point, police said, she displayed two knives and two officers shot and killed her.

"Hello, good morning," one of the officers says in the audio. "You call the police?" The officers continue to speak with Lyles and ask her about a reportedly stolen Xbox.

Shortly after, for reasons that are not clear from the audio, the situation escalates and an officer says, "We need help."

"Hey! Get back! Get back!" an officer shouts before an eruption of gunfire.

- Did things have to spiral out of control so quickly?
- What are other ways the officers could've handled this situation, even though she was supposedly carrying 2 knives?
- Could this tragedy have been avoided? How?

What would your twitter message read in response to what happened?

_____

What has to happen for significant change to occur in our country regarding police shootings?

How can we rebuild trust between our police force and our citizens?

Farrell added, "Finally, we must review cases like this through the lens of a mental health system that is struggling to meet the needs of people suffering in our community. Once the facts are reviewed, my hope is that we can address gaps in our mental-health system with the same seriousness we address an SPD response."

"The bottom line is we need to do better. We need more services and support for people with mental-health problems and victims of domestic violence," she said, adding, "No call for help should be answered by death."

- Is our mental health system failing those in need of services and help?
- Where do you think the gaps are?
- How can the police department better deal with their response when they know people have a history of mental illness?

Civic Minds Activity:

Take a moment to review today's print replica of The Seattle Times. Can you find a story that stands out to you regarding a global issue or someone that was inspired to help others?

Civic Minds in The Seattle Times is posted to the Web on Friday. Please share the NIE program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica version of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free at 1-888/775-2655.

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