A Day in the Life of a McBride Seminar

HNRS305: Explorations in Modern America
October 10, 2018
It all started one rainy afternoon...
The clouds were heavy
A light mist filled the air.
The school was blanketed in cool gray.
The colors brighten.
The mood lifts.
Friendly faces appear.
Before class

Gathering together
Before we started

Food and friends.

Feeding the body before feeding the mind.
Time to begin

The exchange of ideas
What was discussed

Socioeconomic fluidity

- Is it still possible?
- Has our definition changed?
- Family background and social mobility.

Arguments of the worker-political parties

- Define socialism.
- Is it quick gratification?
- Hope for new economics?
- Extreme groups as a catalyst for change.
What was discussed

**Distribution of information**
- A benefit for workers.
- More schooling.
- Education as a benefit for the economy.

**Abstraction vs. Abdication**
- From democracy to republic.
- Disproportionate voices.
- Fear of an uneducated public.
- Voter apathy.
What was discussed

Laborers
- White laborers as white slaves.
- Unionization.
- A democratic method.

Similarities to today
- Gentrification of neighborhoods.
- Five Points and Chicago.
- People are discouraged from helping.
- Several personal stories shared.
What was discussed

**Black Elk Speaks**
- Most responded to reading.
- Evocative and emotional.

**Declaration of Independence**
- Wording co-opted by several groups.
- Self-evident truth not self-evident.
What was discussed

Other topics

- Homelessness, here and abroad.
- It takes more than education.
- Is college a choice?
- Drive needed, but barriers exist.
- Forced education, mandatory K-12.
- Rise in education during time period.
- Education a gift from the government.
- External pressures for excellence.
- Overworked, no work life balance.
- Being self sufficient.
- Define success for yourself.
- It’s okay to be happy!
Our studies so far, in artistic expression
Group projects

Common notions in our studies.
The themes that bind.
Ideas given physical form.
Group projects
Group Projects
To be continued...

We will forever explore our world