

# Engaging Students in Inquiry and Discussion on International Issues: A Choices Program Working Conference

June 26-28, 2017

Charles Hayden Library, Tabor Academy, Marion, MA

Draft as of May, 2017

## Monday, June 26: Exploring the *Immigration and the U.S. Policy Debate Unit* (Optional Preconference for educators new to Choices curriculum units)

8:30

Registration and refreshments. Pick up room card.

9:00-9:30

Welcome, Introductions and Overview

9:30-10:15

### **Choices Pedagogy for an Inquiry-based Classroom**

Essential Question: What is the Choices approach for teaching about contested issues? How do we facilitate *deliberative dialogue* in the classroom? Activity: Values exercise and modifications

Break

10:30-11:00

### **Student Text**

Essential Question: How do I facilitate access to the rich content in the Student Text for all reading levels? Activity: Demonstration of reading activities and discussion of strategies

11:00-12:30

### **Teacher Resources: Lessons**

Essential Question: What lessons accompany the unit, and how do I make them work in my classroom? Activity: Demonstration of selected lessons in the unit. Discussion of modifications and strategies for implementation.

12:30-1:30 Lunch – Johnson Dining Room

1:30-3:30

### **Options Role Play and Personal Option**

Essential Question: What is the pedagogy behind the Options Role Play? How do I make it work with my students? How do I prepare my students?

Activity: Conduct the role play. Discuss preparing students, modifying the role play, and assessment

5:00 **Opening Reception (Cash bar), Dinner, and Welcome at Tabor's President's House**

Anne Gardiner, History Department Chair, Tabor Academy

# Tuesday, June 27: Implementing Choices In *Your* Curriculum: A Working Day

7:30-8:15 Breakfast at Tabor Dining Hall

8:30

Welcome and Overview of the day

8:45-10:15

**Small group work to *Road Map* Choices units into your curriculum**

Activity: Examine, plan and discuss modifications

**Choose one group:**

**a) U.S. History**

*The Limits of Power: The United States in Vietnam*

**b) World History**

*Nigeria: History, Identity and Change*

**c) Geography/Current Issues**

*Confronting Genocide: Never Again*

**d) Civics or Government**

*A More Perfect Unit: American Independence and the Constitution*

10:15 Break

10:30-12:00

**The Uncertain Future of the Nuclear Agreement With Iran: What is at Stake**

Presentation and discussion by Professor Jo-Anne Hart, PhD, Iran Expert, Watson institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, and Lesley College

12-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:30

**Small group work to *Road Map* Choices units into your curriculum**

Activity: Examine, plan and discuss modifications

**Choose one group:**

**a) U.S. History**

*Freedom Now: The Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi*

**b) World History**

*Iran Through the Looking Glass: History, Reform and Revolution*

**c) Geography/Current Issues**

*Immigration and the U.S. Policy Debate*

**d) Civics or Government**

*Responding to Terrorism: Challenges for Democracy*

2:30 Break

**2:45–3:30 Meet the Choices Writing Team: How Does Choices Create Its Curriculum?**

A discussion on how the Choices Program writing team creates content, including a discussion of Choices new *Standards for Systematic Review of Diversity and Accessibility* rubric. Your input is welcome!

3:30

Program Ends

3:30 Optional: The Choices Program's New Digital Curriculum

4:30 Optional: Beach, Volleyball, or Kayak Time

6:00 Dinner Cookout on the Beach

## **Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>: Choices Throw Down Day!**

7:30 – 8:30 **Breakfast**

9:00 -10:15 **Argumentation: Using Arguments to Improve Critical Thinking Skills**

10:15 Break

10:30-11:30

**Small Group Discussions and Demonstrations by Choices Teaching Fellows (List is subject to change.)**

**Choose One:**

Creating Written Assessments of Choices Units

Adapting Choices to Middle School or Struggling Readers: What Works?

Teaching A Foreign Policy Elective Using Choices as a Basis

Addressing Historical Thinking Skills Using Choices' *Colonization in Africa* Unit

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch

12:45- 1:30

**Choose One:**

Prepare for Choices Throw Down Competition (On Your Own)

Walk Through of the Newest Choices Unit, *Nigeria: History, Identity and Change*

Using Choices units in the Geography Classroom

Facilitating Discussions of Controversial Issues

1:40 - 3:00

**Afternoon Competition: Choices Throw Down!**

Come and present your best modification or adaptation of the Choices Role Play, Perspectives Activity, Personal Option, or any Choices lesson! Individuals or teams will have up to 10 minutes to present their idea. The winner will take home a \$200 credit in the Choices webstore for personal or school use! Selected ideas will be presented (and credited) on the Choices Program's blogsite.

3:00

Evaluations and certificates

3:15

End of Program

DRAFT