



by *Jostens*®

CRITICAL THINKING EQUITY VS. EQUALITY

Use the following critical thinking questions to help foster an open, student-led discussion on the theme(s) discussed in this episode of The Harbor.

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1. GUEST CAMMY WATKINS STATES THAT DIVERSITY IS ABOUT TAKING TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR DIFFERENCES AND THEN TAKING ACTION TO EMBRACE THOSE DIFFERENCES RATHER THAN ALIENATE THEM.

Write down one example of how you could do this in your school: identify something that makes someone different, acknowledge it, and then take action to embrace it. Would you be willing to do this in real life? Why or why not?

2. EQUALITY ASSUMES THAT THE SAME SOLUTION WILL WORK FOR EVERYONE, WHILE EQUITY UNDERSTANDS THAT EVERYONE STARTS WITH UNIQUE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES, AND THEREFORE, NEEDS DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS.

Think of an activity, project, or initiative in which leaders assumed one solution would work best for everyone, but someone still felt left out because they were at a disadvantage. Did the leaders see that person and try to make it right by them? If you were leading, what would you have done differently?

3. CAMMY MAKES USE OF A GRAPHIC SHOWING PEOPLE WATCHING A GAME OVER A FENCE TO HELP ILLUSTRATE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EQUITY AND EQUALITY.

Describe both scenarios in your own words. Why do you think people don't always use equitable solutions to problems?

4. IMAGINE THAT YOUR STUDENT COUNCIL WANTED TO USE SCHOOL FUNDS TO BUILD A WHEELCHAIR RAMP FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF WITH DISABILITIES. THOUGH THIS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE AN EQUITABLE ACTION, IT WOULD PROBABLY BENEFIT RELATIVELY FEW PEOPLE ON YOUR CAMPUS.

How important do you think it is to create more access to opportunities like these?

What arguments could you make for and against this initiative? Explain your perspective in detail.

5. CAMMY BELIEVES THAT EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND MAKING AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS WITH THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT THAN US LEADS TO A STRONGER SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

Why do you think she believes this? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?





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