

SELF-DIRECTED WORKSHOP GUIDE

THE PEDAGOGICAL IMPULSE

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ALPHABET OF HOPE

THEMES

Hope
Activism
Curriculum
Social movements

ENGAGING WITH

Counter with Care
by Shannon Gerard and
Pressing Issues Students
Celebrate People's History by
Josh McPhee and Just Seeds artists

PARTICIPANTS

3 - 15

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

Under neoliberal formulations, hope gets ambushed in mild discourses of social transformation that benefit already circulating capitalist logic. Most of the formulations center hope as future-engaged actions and positive affects like joy, peace, and love. This workshop seeks to expand the concept and scope of hope by sharing understandings and possibilities of living differently in the here and now.

Participants will collectively create an alphabet of hope that compiles participants' personal references for hope for a better present or future. References can include thinkers, organizations, social movements and resources (books, songs, podcasts, etc.) Each participant will submit visual representations of one or two letters from the alphabet (depending on group size). Once assembled, the alphabet becomes a pedagogical and resource sharing toolbox to talk about hope.

The self-guided workshops explore the *Instant Class Kit*, a portable curriculum guide and pop-up exhibition. The kit brings together contemporary curriculum materials in the form of artist multiples such as zines, scores, games, newspapers and other sensory objects. The items in the kit strive to deliver a curriculum based on the values of critical democratic pedagogy, anti-racist and anti-colonial logics, and social justice. The self-guided workshops explore and activate some of the kit contents.

PART 1: THINKING OF HOPE

Participants are assigned their letters and have to brainstorm their concept and content. Participants can highlight a person, a resource, a movement, a practice that inspires or represents hope for them. See example below.

PART 2: CREATING HOPE

Either following personal aesthetics or drawing from the aesthetics of *Counter with Care* (CwC) or *Celebrate People's History*, participants create a poster (drawing, collage, photography, or other media) highlighting the letter, the word and the reference(s) they have chosen. You will find two examples at the end of this sheet.

ACTIVITIES

PART 1: THINKING OF HOPE

- Introduction to the artists Shannon Gerard and the project *Counter with Care*, and Josh McPhee and the *Celebrate People's History* project.
- To introduce the workshop, hold a conversation around hope. You can use the following questions to start:
 - How are we defining hope? Is hope for the future or for the present?
 - Who hopes with us? Who do we invite to hope with us? Who is included in our hope?
 - How can hope help us prepare for the future to come?
- Participants are assigned two letters of the alphabet and start brainstorming the concept for their poster. You can encourage them to think of past and present social movements, activists, family, community members, writers, artists, singers, quotes, nature, etc.
- Participants choose their alphabet word and proceed to draft their poster's content.

PART 2: CREATING HOPE

- Participants design the posters for each assigned letter in their preferred medium.
- On a volunteer basis, participants present their poster to the class.
- On a volunteer basis, as an action of sharing resources, participants with access to social media upload their posters with the hashtag #alphabetofhope. Optional the workshop coordinator, assembles the posters into a collective zine.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

This reading is not open sourced but it can be sent to you. If you are interested please contact us [HERE](#).

- Zaliwska, Z., & Boler, M. (2018). Troubling hope: Performing inventive connections in discomforting times. *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, 38(1), 71-84.

MATERIALS

- You can find the artists' bios [HERE](#) and the projects' descriptions [HERE](#)
- For this workshop you will need:
 - Optional: design software
 - Pen and papers
 - Diverse art supplies (crayons, scissors, magazines, etc.)
 - Device for digital photography

EXAMPLES

