

SELF-DIRECTED WORKSHOP GUIDE

THE PEDAGOGICAL IMPULSE

<https://thepedagogicalimpulse.com>

REDUNDANCY

THEMES

Activism
Police brutality
Active listening

ENGAGING WITH

*The People's Mycrophony
Songbook*
by Elana Mann

PARTICIPANTS

3 - 15

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

Police brutality against racialized bodies, particularly Black and Indigenous, is part of the capitalist and colonial systems determining the way we interact with the world. In the past years, the consequences of police brutality have been taking over our news feeds and the streets. Still, often it feels like we are not listening to each other.

This workshop seeks to hold conversations based on active listening around police brutality and anti-black and Indigenous racism. We encourage the conversation to hold diverse perspectives, from the emotional and critical responses towards police brutality, to alternatives and possibilities of resistance, like defunding the police.

Under the topic of police brutality, participants engage in a performance score designed by Chris Cuellar in *The People's Mycrophony Songbook* by Elana Mann. The performance encourages the participants to get involved in the practice of active listening with the group. Through the prompt of repetition, participants have to listen to each other and welcome the awareness of outside sounds, gestures, ideas and vibrations. At the same time, participants digest their internal response to the sounding stimulus.

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.

ACTIVITIES

PART 1: DISCUSSION

- Introduce artist Elana Mann and *The People's Mycrophony Songbook*. When introducing the project focus on the practices of active listening and speaking as a guide for the workshop's conversations.
- Participants discuss the systemic ways in which police brutality is supported: from the connections between police brutality and anti-black and Indigenous racism; to alternatives and possibilities of resistance by reflecting on what does it mean to defund the police.

PART 2: PERFORMING

- Before starting with the performance, consider the following:
 - In consensus with the class, decide if you want to have your videos on or off when doing the exercise.
 - Establish the order in which participants will follow one another. This can be in alphabetical order, or participants can be assigned a number.
Participants need to think about intonation, pitch and cadence when performing their statements.
- Instructions for Redundancy:
 - Under the topic of police brutality, each performer writes a statement of a maximum of ten words to be offered to the group. The statement can include an emotional state, a desire, a frustration, a demand, a title, a name(s), etc.
 - Starting with any performer, the statement is said out loud to the group. The next performer repeats the statement, attempting to mimic the original speaker as accurately as possible, mimicking the exact intonation, pitch, rhythm and cadence of the original speaker, as if the performer were a tape recorder. This verbal and musical repetition continues around the "circle" until it cycles back to the original speaker, who then repeats their original statement, this time mimicking the speaker to their right as accurately as possible, paying special attention to the speaker's intonation, pitch, rhythm and cadence. Following each complete cycle, the next speaker then offers her statement, which then undergoes the same repetition process and transfer by each performer in the circle. The performance is complete once each member of the group has offered and repeated their original statement.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Not all the readings are open sourced but they can be sent to you.. If you are interested please contact us [HERE](#).

- [Colbert, M. \(2013\). Radical Listening and the People's Microphony: A Conversation with Elana Mann. Sounding out! Retrieved September 2020.](#)
- Cole, D. (2020). *The Skin We're In : A Year of Black Resistance and Power*, Doubleday Canada.
- [Hudson, S. Loreto, N. \(producers\). \(2020\) Episode 103 - abolish the police. Audio podcast Sandy and Nora. . Retrieved September 2020, from <https://sandyandnora.com/episode-103-abolish-the-police/>](#)

MATERIALS

- You can find the artists' bios [HERE](#) and the projects' descriptions [HERE](#)
- For this workshop you will need:
 - Computer with internet access
 - Video conference software