

## **Shared Stories- Fall 2011**

### Topics and Subtopics for Student Presentations and Blog Postings

#### **US Multicultural History**

1. Questions: Why is there a belief that Asians/Asian Americans are weaker than other people? How do you feel about this stereotype? What are some examples of your experience with this stereotype? What effect does this stereotype have on how Asians/Asian-Americans get along with others in society?

##### **Resources:**

- <http://www.asian-nation.org/sports.shtml> (Asian American/Asian Sports Stars and Athletes)

2. Questions: How do some of your peers identify themselves? What words do they use? Looking at the words only, what do you think they mean? Where did these words come from? After finding out some more information and history of these words, how would you now choose to identify yourself? Has it changed from how you identified yourself before? How do you think others like your friends, family, and strangers would identify you?

##### **Resources:**

<http://youtu.be/ehhxGCocd4E> (Multiracial Identity by Bullfrog Films)

3. Question: Do you know who the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from WWII was? Why do you think the team's members participated in the missions that they did? Find examples of how some of these members self-identified themselves and what were their values. What choices do you think you would have made if you lived in the U.S. during WWII?

##### **Resources:**

- <http://www.asian-nation.org/442.shtml> (442nd: rescue of the Lost Battalion)- Members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and those they rescued as they were sent into an incredibly intense and dangerous mission to rescue another U.S. Army regiment that was trapped by the Germans during World War II (an interview by Burt Masao Takeuchi)  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51JuR92v4oI&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51JuR92v4oI&feature=player_embedded) (Valor with Honor 442nd Documentary Trailer)

4. Question: How did the U.S. become a multicultural society? Name some of the key factors that contributed to the U.S. becoming what it is today? What impact has this multiculturalism had on the lives of New Yorkers? How has multiculturalism impacted the lives of immigrants and the Asian-American experience in New York? Share examples of this impact in your life.

**Resources:**

- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/05/immigrants-dominate-small-business-ownership-in-nyc\\_n\\_996510.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/05/immigrants-dominate-small-business-ownership-in-nyc_n_996510.html)
- <http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/immigrants-play-key-role-as-city-entrepreneurs-study-finds/>

5. Questions: What is Asian-American identity? What are your feelings on Asian-American identity? The following are some interpretations of what it could mean, but there are other examples and more research is required.

**Resources:**

- "the Motel" by Michael Kang - a 75 minute movie about an Asian American teenage boy working out his identity issues <http://m.imdb.com/title/tt0436607/plotsummary>
- Shortcomings - a comic book about Asian American malehood and insecurities.
- American Born Chinese - a graphic novel which probes issues like stereotyping, Second generation life, inherited cultural history. Book is available at CPA, please sign it out.
- Available on google books: Asian American youth: culture, identity, and ethnicity By Jennifer Lee, Min Zhou. Read the Introduction, Ch. 2, and/or Ch. 19.

**NY Chinatown and Community Org.**

1. Question/Ideas: Choose a local vendor/small business and research it. Why are small businesses/family businesses important in a community? Set up an interview with a vendor owner. What is the reason that so many Asians own their own businesses?

**Resources:**

- <http://www.ourchinatown.org/2011/10/03/good-eats-yaos-dragon-beard-candy/#comment-22306> (local vendors/small businesses in Chinatown)
- <http://www.asian-nation.org/small-business.shtml>
- <http://www.ourchinatown.org/>
- <http://news.feetintwoworlds.org/topics/immigrant-communities/chinese/> <http://www.aafe.org/index.html>

**AA History/Immigration and Civil Rights**

1. Question: Who is Vincent Chin? Why is he significant to Asian American history?

**Resources:**

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

[v=I\\_rwnyM1vtE&feature=player\\_embedded](#) (Vincent Who Film trailer on Vincent Chin murder case from the 80s)

- [http://www.vincentwhofilm.com/interviews/nhung\\_truong/](http://www.vincentwhofilm.com/interviews/nhung_truong/) (Nhung Truong Interview: Profile of a Young Asian American Activist)

2. Question: What is a Model Minority? Do you think you are affected by this stereotype? Explain why you feel you are or you aren't.

**Resources:**

- <http://www.asian-nation.org/model-minority.shtml> (Model Minority)
- Ronald Tatak's "Strangers from a different shore" is a great resource for the history of Asian Americans, chinatowns in the US, model minority myth.
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qscr\\_BwtV68](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qscr_BwtV68) (Michelle Rhee, Frank Wu, Kal Penn discussion about Model Minority Myth)

3. Question: New York has a fast growing immigrant population with Asians and Hispanics at the lead. We know this is true because of statistics and data. Why are statistics important and how might this impact your community?

**Resources:**

- <http://www.asian-nation.org/14-statistics.shtml> (14 Important Statistics about Asian Americans)
- <http://www.aafny.org/cic/default.asp?check=True> (The Asian American Federation's Census Information Center)

4. Question: What were the Chinese Exclusion Laws? What significance and impact did they have? What is being done today to remedy the impact?

The 1882 Project - non-partisan grassroots efforts to address the Chinese Exclusion Laws

<http://www.1882project.org/about/>

New articles on U.S. Senate passage of resolution to address and express regret for 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act:

Senate Measure Regrets 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, *San Francisco Chronicle*, October 11, 2011

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/10/10/MNJI1LFOT4.DTL>

Senate Apologizes for Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, *Colorlines*, October 11, 2011

[http://colorlines.com/archives/2011/10/senate\\_apologizes\\_for\\_chinese\\_exclusion\\_act\\_of\\_1882.html](http://colorlines.com/archives/2011/10/senate_apologizes_for_chinese_exclusion_act_of_1882.html)

5. Question: What is the DREAM Act? What is its importance? Why do some people think it is not support it? How is the NY State DREAM Act similar or different from the national DREAM Act? How is the NYS one similar or different from the California DREAM Act, which was recently signed into action by the

California governor. What can you do to support the same success for the NYS DREAM Act?

**Resources:**

- <http://www.nysylc.org/> (DREAM Act: NY State; NY State Youth Leadership Council)
- <http://www.nysylc.org/2011/10/dairmove/> (DREAM Activists & the Immigrant Rights Movement: **Tuesday, October 18, 2011 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**)
- <http://theniya.org/> (National Immigrant Youth Alliance)
- United We Dream - <http://unitedwedream.org/about/>
- CA Dream Act passes: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203476804576619292756560716.html>

6. Question: How have minorities and oppressed groups exercised their civil rights in the past and present? What do you think they can do in the future? What are your civil right and what do you think you can do to exercise them?

**Resources:**

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7loTMBp-Ys&feature=related> (Information student-made video on East LA Walkouts)
- <http://news.footintwoworlds.org/2011/05/18/a-growing-asian-immigrant-presence-in-organized-labor/> (A Growing Asian Immigrant Presence in Organized Labor)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L4PdoyGMvI&feature=related> (Great trailer of film on Civil Rights Era and passing this legacy onto youth by Bullfrog Films)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF\\_XllllKMY&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF_XllllKMY&feature=related) (Civil Rights and the Japanese-Amer experience by Bullfrog Films)

**Current Events:**

- Racial bake sale: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/09/25/us/california-racial-bake-sale/index.html>
- <http://www.8asians.com/2011/09/26/talking-and-conversing-like-an-american/>
- <http://www.8asians.com/2011/09/30/the-asian-effect-of-apas-outperforming-others-is-not-gene-based/>
- <http://www.8asians.com/2011/09/16/less-asian-americans-live-in-poverty/>
- <http://www.8asians.com/2011/09/13/more-asian-americans-filing-for-bankruptcies/>