

## **Scaffolded Discussion Circle Questions**

### **LEP/ ELL/ Special Ed**

#### **Question 1**

"We don't have to argue with anybody. We don't have to curse and do around acting bad with our words. We don't need bricks and bottles." MLK Jr. in *"I've Been to the Mountain Top"*

"If we don't do something real soon, I think you'll have to agree that we're going to be forced either to use the ballot or the bullet. It's one or the other.... It isn't that time is running out - - time has run out!" Malcolm X in *"The Ballot or The Bullet"*

After reading the excerpts above from MLK Jr. and Malcolm X – which viewpoint do you find most convincing? Why?

#### **Question 2**

In "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," King states "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Look up the meaning of injustice and provide an example. Once you have done that, decide if you agree with Dr. King.

#### **Question 3**

What makes non-violence a better choice in the eyes of Dr. King? Do you agree with him, why or why not?

#### **Question 4**

How does Malcolm X think that equal rights will be gained the fastest? Do you agree with his position on violence and change?

#### **Questions 5**

Malcolm X was born in Nebraska, but he does not see himself as an American. What do you think has happened to him that makes him feel this way? Do you think there are people living in America today who feel like Malcolm X did? If so, who?

#### **Question 6**

Can violence ever be seen as ok if being violent helps achieve your goal? Why or why not?

#### **Question 7**

In today's world, which strategy, non-violent or impassioned resistance, would work best in getting rid of negative things in society?

## **Scaffolded Discussion Circle Questions**

### **GT/ Enrichment**

#### **Question 1:**

After reading the excerpts from the Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, which argument or viewpoint do you find to be the most compelling? Why? Find one quote from both MLK and Malcolm X that you feel embodies the essence of their ideals. Describe how each quote sums up these 2 men.

#### **Question 2:**

In "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," King states that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Do you agree with him? Think of another time in history where injustice was being done – what was the outcome to this and how was justice reached?

#### **Question 3:**

What are the special advantages of non-violent resistance, in Martin Luther King's view? Do you agree with him, why or why not? Do you think that if MLK was alive today, this non-violent approach would work? Explain.

#### **Question 4:**

What is the basis of a successful revolution, according to Malcolm X? Do you agree with his interpretation about violence and revolution? Why or why not? If Malcolm X was alive today, do you think his approach to revolution would be tolerated? Explain.

#### **Questions 5:**

Malcolm X was born in Omaha, yet does not see himself as an American. What sets him apart from those he perceives as Americans? Are there people today who might identify with his feelings? Do a bit of research on groups/ organizations/ people who are working to fight social injustice, like Malcolm X felt, in today's society.

#### **Question 6:**

Can the use of violence ever be a justifiable means to achieve an end goal or bring about real change? Why or why not (provide examples from history or from today's current state of affairs)? Think of groups of people today, whom might be opposed to using violence to urge on social justice. Why might these groups be opposed?

#### **Question 7:**

In today's world, which strategy, non-violent or impassioned resistance, would be most effective in combating social injustice? Site examples of times in today's world where you think violence would have helped solved social injustice at a faster pace.