

Power of Perception

Curriculum & Residency



Power of Perception (PoP) is a high school and community media-action curriculum project designed to nurture the voices, experiences and creative brilliance of youth and community members through truth-telling and media-making. Each workshop in the curriculum provides students and community members an opportunity to explore how power, perception and self-expression impacts their lives.

Workshops begin by watching excerpts of *American Promise*, a feature-length documentary exploring 14 years in the lives of Idris and Seun, two young black boys who grow and struggle with the power of perception to shape their lives in school and in their communities.

The project then provides activities for arts-based dialogue, which facilitates discussion about topics explored in the film and other media excerpts. The project also provides the opportunity for students to continue their exploration through hands-on media-making that leads to the creation of digital stories, audio portraits, or photo series.

By the end of the Power of Perception project, participants are able to take their skills into their neighborhoods to amplify and spread positive images of themselves and their communities.

The Power of Perception was created by The Laundromat Project, a nationally-recognized community-based arts organization and will be available in April 2014 as a 15-session high-school curriculum and as a separate guide for facilitating community conversations.

Contact The Laundromat Project at info@laundromatproject.org

I'm creative and good at coming up with ideas, but PoP helped me learn to put my ideas to work.

-Tesfaye

I really connected with filming. It helped me talk about racism and discrimination.

-Joshua

In collaboration with:

AMERICAN PROMISE

Power of Perception

Mini Workshop



When watching *American Promise*, gather a small group together to try out this excerpt of the Power of Perception curriculum to start a creative dialogue!

BEFORE

Gather together to reflect upon your own school experiences.

What about school positively impacted your life? What about school challenged or inspired you to become a better person? What about school hindered your ability to achieve your childhood goals and dreams?

AFTER

Explore how story sharing builds community, and uncovers shared experiences, by creating a story quilt.

- 1 Choose a time keeper, and get everyone into a circle - the "quilt" will be made within that space.
- 2 Choose three themes from the film that resonate with the group.
- 3 Each person will have one minute to tell a story about each theme.
- 4 The first person chooses which of the three themes they'd like to start off with a story about.
- 5 The next person tells a story about one of the other two themes, and finds a creative way to link it to the preceding story.
- 6 The stories keep going around and across the circle, and the "quilt" is complete once everyone has told three one-minute stories, each about a different theme.

Remember: No consecutive stories should be about the same theme.
- 7 Prepare a few ideas to collectively or individually share with the larger group.

