

EDU 5105 – Multicultural Social Organizations  
Professor Roxanne Mitchell

This class is an open environment for discussions. A truer opening statement could not have been made. This **Eye of the Storm** opened up a kettle of worms that seemed to have been hovering beneath the surface since the genesis of this cohort. Student after student expressed concerns that had been bottled up from the beginning. I felt this cleaning of ones inner feelings went a long way in setting the necessary tone for this class.

This class had both challenges and opportunities. I felt that this exercise proved that what was a challenge to some was an opportunity to others.

It was expressed that good listeners keep their eyes on the person who is speaking. Even though this is part of our teaching, I'm not convinced that this is always a reality. Where common courtesy dictates this, it is not always necessary if we are looking only at learning situations.

To sit back and do nothing is to cooperate with the oppressor. This was one of the main lessons in the course. The documentary used to demonstrate this was powerful. I was so taken by this documentary that I used portions of this to train my leadership team. All people should understand what they do to others, either on purpose or by accident.

The Privilege exercise made me feel that there was a big difference between the haves and have-nots. It did not however take into account that there existed ways to overcome some of the problems that the have-nots lacked.

- The way to stop hate is education.
- Tolerance is something we need in our lifetime to make life more harmonious.
- Hate crimes are being committed by younger children – We must do something to reverse this.
- The time to intervene with a troubled child is before a crisis occurs.

Throughout the course additional exercises were used to help us understand the types of things we often do subconsciously. Sorting People, Privilege, and ethnic stereotypes all achieved this.

This class went a long way toward bridging and healing some of the problems that have existed in this cohort from the beginning. Looking at the comradeship that have developed during this class have been all inspiring. We have learned and shown tolerance that has not been in this class since we started. Diversity exists and in this class we have climbed a ladder that previously did not exist. We have all been enriched.