

Humanities I

Unit III The Humanities in New York (15)

Chapter 14. A Search for IdentityAffective Objectives:

- A. To become aware that people can find meaning in their lives by identifying with a community.
- B. To be aware of various ways to achieve equality in society.
- C. To conceptualize the value of equality by identifying various forms it may take.

Knowledge Objectives:

- A. To know what Carmichael means when he charges American society with racism - specifically economic exploitation of the blacks, insistence that blacks accept white values as a condition of equality, and the assumption that white ways are superior to black ways.
- B. To know what Carmichael means by black power - namely, that black communities should develop economic and political power to the extent that they need not accept white ways of life as a basis for equality.
- C. To know that Carmichael sees black power as a means to establish social conditions necessary to allow black men to have "psychological equality, that is, a sense of dignity in being what you are.

Additional Materials: Class Handout N.Y. 5, The Aspirations of Malcolm X, Whitney Young, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Norman Hill.

Discussion Questions:

1. Carmichael condemns American society as racist. What does he mean by "racist"? What examples does he give of racism?
2. How does Carmichael propose to combat racism? What, in practical terms does black power mean?
3. Why does Carmichael think that black power will benefit the black community? What values will be promoted by the concept?

Discussion questions on Handout N.Y. 5:

1. What does the author of each work argue about the means to achieve equality?
2. What are the author's goals?
3. How do the author's arguments compare to those of Carmichael?

General Discussion:

Do you feel that more effective equality will be achieved through black power than through integration? Can equality be achieved more effectively when men have the power to determine their own destiny instead of being forced to accept other's values as a basis for equal treatment?

To do justice to the discussion of this question you should first examine the assumptions underlying both the integration concept and the black power concept. Integration might equate equality with strict conformity to white norms. On the other hand, separatism might tend to accentuate trivial differences between men, which could then become the basis for inequalities. Consider the question very carefully.