



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2020 Volume III: Politics and Public Policy in the United States

When downward Mobility Strikes

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By the end of the unit, students will be able to understand how upward and downward mobility has affected our communities on a local, national and global level. As a result of their engagement in this unit, students will be able to analyze and interpret information, define new vocabulary concepts, identify, characterize and explain upward and down mobility, its causes, effects and how it has directly affected us and evolved over time. They will examine how downward and upward mobility affects their livelihood. We will specifically discover and research how school systems, social security, healthcare, social mobility, job security and crime rates all play an essential role in both entities. Students will see how they are all intertwined as a result of downward and upward mobility.

In seminar, we discussed how policy affects the workforce, school systems, social security and healthcare. Students will examine these policies. They will be able to make a direct connection with the policies that affect them and their families. They will understand that they have the power to change any policy that adversely impacts them. In the words of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “If we don’t stand for something, we will fall for anything.” As we discussed in the seminar, education is important for everyone. Although we know that the school systems are not equitable for everyone, we must continue to work towards an equi system. Without knowledge, you have no power. We must impart knowledge to give people power.

(Developed for Spanish, grades 3-6; recommended for Language Arts, grades 3-8)

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