***Lesson Plans: Grades 9-12***

**Garment Workers of South Jersey: Gender in the Workplace.**

**Introduction**

The issues surrounding gender in the workplace remain central around the world. Inequalities in treatment and salaries remain central issues of topic for many students looking towards their future employment. This lesson will allow students to understand change over time in relation to gender in the workplace. Students will investigate the role gender played in the garment industry by analyzing stories presented in *Garment Workers of South Jersey*.

**Essential Questions**

What role does gender have in the workforce?

How has the role of gender in the workplace changed over time?

**Learning Objectives**

*Students will be able to*

Work collaboratively to conduct research.

Compare and contrast differences in the topic of gender across time periods.

Create a thesis statement and mini-essay.

**Lesson Activities**

**Activity 1**

Focus Activity: What role does gender play in the workforce? Open discussion facilitated by the teacher.

1. Collaboratively research the role of gender in Garment Workers. Students will work in groups of 2 or 3 depending on class size. In their groups, students will investigate several of the oral testimonies presented in *Garment Workers of South Jersey*. Students will look for several items to discuss: the pay gap, expectations of female garment workers, family life, how wages were spend and saved, and the differences in how male and female workers were treated.
2. Presentation of findings and discussion. The teacher will facilitate a brief discussion on the research students collected. Students will be encouraged to write their findings on the board and discuss similarities and differences.
3. Compare and contrast with contemporary workplace inequalities. Students will be asked to brainstorm how the treatment of gender in *Garment Workers* differs or compares to the role of gender in the modern workforce. Students may elect to research gender in the modern workplace.
4. Mini-Essay. Students will be asked to write a 3 paragraph mini-essay. This essay should include a thesis statement and three main idea paragraphs. Students should write about how gender in the workplace has changed from what is presented in Garment Workers and in today’s workforce.

Closure: Write One – Take One. The teacher will provide each students with a post-it note. On this note, students will write what they feel is an essential question about gender in the workplace. Once students write this they will place their post-it note on the board. Students must take a post-it question that their peers developed and answer it fully.

**Common Core Standards**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4

Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

**American Studies Habits of Mind**

* Seeking out diverse perspectives
* Studying change over time
* Practicing collaboration and public engagement

**Teacher Preparation**

1. Familiarize yourself with issues of gender in the workplace by reading the following articles:
   1. <http://www.ilo.org/washington/areas/gender-equality-in-the-workplace/WCMS_159496/lang--en/index.htm>
   2. <https://www.summer.harvard.edu/inside-summer/gender-inequality-women-workplace>
   3. <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/Articles/2012/05/25/How-Men-and-Women-Differ-in-the-Workplace>