



Middle and High School Lesson Plan: School-to-Prison Pipeline

1. What do you already know? *10 minutes*
 - **Question for tutor to ask tutee:**
 - What usually happens when students get punished in school?
 - What are the most common behaviors or actions you see students getting in trouble for at school?
 - Do you think that school punishments have an impact on students' interest in school?

2. Introduction of Topic *15 minutes*
 - *Today we're going to be talking about something called the school-to-prison pipeline.*
 - **Definition of school-to-prison-pipeline:** When schools use punishments that **push students out of the classroom**, this makes it a lot more likely that students will become introduced into the criminal justice system. This is a really complex problem, but we're learning that when students get in trouble in school, it is better for schools to keep those students in the classroom so that they don't get behind on schoolwork or feel unwelcome in their own school community!
 - **Who's in the pipeline?**
 - Students from two groups are disproportionately represented in the school-to-prison pipeline:
 1. Students who are racial minorities
 2. Students with disabilities
 - This means that school punishment policies are unfairly impacting students from these groups

3. Activity (pick one article to read OR watch video) *10 minutes*

Recommendation: pick video if student is in 6th-8th grade

 - 3 Great Articles on the school-to-prison pipeline (pick ONE, read, and then discuss together)
 - <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2013/the-schooltoprison-pipeline>



- <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/basic-literacy-a-crucial-tool-to-stem-school-to-prison-us-59149393e4b01ad573dac1dd>
- <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-the-school-to-prison-pipeline-works>
- Video on school-to-prison pipeline (watch and discuss)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04pcSyzwoTg>
- Discussion Questions:
 - What did you read/watch that surprised you?
 - Were there any terms that you did not understand?
 - Is there anything that you read/watched that you connected with?

4. Reflection Writing Activity *10 minutes*

- Options (pick ONE):
 - Write a poem about the school-to-prison pipeline
 - RESTORATIVE JUSTICE is one solution that is being suggested to stop the school-to-prison pipeline. Write about what you think that word might mean. THERE ARE NO WRONG ANSWERS! What does that word mean to you?
 - Write about what you think schools could do to make all students feel more welcome in the classroom
 - Write about what makes you want to go to school. Write about what makes you feel like you are a part of your school community. Is it friends? Teachers? A specific subject?