

Community Walk Reflection

I enjoyed this hate crimes analysis lesson. I gave the students tables with data from the FBI database. They had to find the standard deviation and analyze what it meant in relation to the rest of the data. They then had to interpret what they thought caused the numbers to increase or decrease over the years. Lastly, they had to predict whether or not they felt like the recent presidential election would impact those numbers. After they had time to answer the questions individually, I had them discuss their answers as a whole class.

They enjoyed this lesson because it was something practical and relevant. They had a chance to be treated like adults and talk about the social climate in America. I think they appreciated it because not many other teachers allowed them to have this space. The most valuable part was being able to show them how to use math to understand the real world. We no longer were looking at a hypothetical situation created just for practice. When I polled the class to ask them if they like the lesson, majority of the students did. Only a few complained about it because the numbers were really big.

I enjoyed creating and teaching this lesson. It did take me a long time to create though. I had to pull the data and select the exact years to make sure I had a good range of numbers. It also was a lot of work to come up with thoughtful questions that had them analyze the data. However, it paid off. I was not expecting the discussion to be an actual discussion. I thought they were just going to say what they got and not talk to one another. I enjoyed seeing how insightful my students were on an important topic.