

Pedagogy of the Oppressed. Study Guide

Topics for Discussion

How could Freire's pedagogy for the oppressed be applied in an innercity classroom? Can the pedagogy be adapted to public school classrooms (typically institutions of oppression, according to Freire)?

Freire describes oppression as „violence“. Is societal oppression based on historical and economic factors violence? Why or why not?

Are traditional methods of education Oppressive?

Freire argues that to help oppressed people, one must enter into solidarity with them, and in effect, join the oppressed, otherwise any help is false generosity and counterproductive charity. Do You agree? Why or Why not?

Is it possible to educate oppressed people living in poverty to give them a critical awareness of their own situation?

Freire argues that all oppressors, members of upper classes, naturally strive to maintain the oppressive situation, which works to their advantage, dehumanizing and blaming the oppressed people for their own plights. Do You agree or disagree with this his stance? Do upper classes, consciously or uncsciously, work to maintain the status quo and to prevent the advancement of lower classes?

Is it possible to improve the lifestyle and freedom of impoverished people without undermining the status and wealth of the upper classes?

How is Freire influenced by marxist philosophy?

Are Freire's ideas equally well suited to apply to politics as to education?