



PUICON'S "INNOVATIVE NEWARK"

COURSE MATERIAL

A history course of the rich and powerful black history of the city of Newark - where high school students come up with an original solution to an issue they are passionate about and want to solve in their Newark community.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Innovative Newark is an interdisciplinary course that utilizes project-based learning, community engagement, and original research, leading to a social innovation that will solve a problem in our greater Newark community. Students are introduced to the importance and challenges of global problem solving in local contexts and to their roles as Innovative Citizens in Newark. Students begin the course by studying the richness of the black experience in the city of Newark. This includes a focus on Black Power in the 19th and 20th century, the Newark Rebellion, and important innovators and citizens in the city today.

Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) as our guide, students work in groups to explore and come up with an innovative solution to a local problem. By doing so, students will engage with the local community as they conduct research on their specific issue/problem. In additional to working on project-based group work, students will improve upon individual and group presentation skills as they present their innovation/solution to professors and outside members of the community. Their solution/innovation for their chosen community problem will consist of a presentation to the greater Bard/Newark community.

Innovative citizenship requires students to challenge the status-quo by identifying social problems, mobilizing resources, and building networks as they work towards the social good. This course is designed for students to integrate knowledge, techniques, and expertise from multiple fields to address the moral, social, and cultural questions and the scientific and economic challenges surrounding UN SDGs explored on a local Newark context. The goal of the course is to engage students to develop and polish their critical thinking, problem-solving, and social skills so they can become Innovative Citizens in their greater city of Newark.

LEARNING GOALS

- · To explore the black history of Newark including problems, individuals, solutions, and community groups past and present.
- · Understand the relationship between previous social categories and systems of governance and present unequal relationships among different cultural, racial, and gender groups.
- · Evaluate and analyze the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and what they mean in a local context.
- · Constantly reflect upon and be engaged with material presented in class by collaborating and communicating with group members.
- · Participate fully in intellectual discussions by asking relevant questions, presenting one's own ideas, and listening thoughtfully to the questions and ideas of others.
- Engage with perspectives beyond one's own, including those beyond one's own cultural and historical circumstances.

EXPLORING BLACK POWER IN THE 19TH CENTURY UNIT



Students explored and analyzed primary sources from the following interactive digital archive:

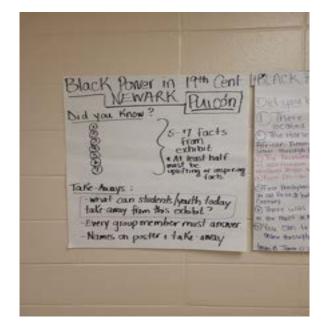
Black Power in the 19th Century in Newark, NJ (click on highlighted portion to go to link)

- Archivist and NJ Historian Noelle Lorraine Williams, curator of the above digital archive, came to speak to our class about her experience as a black woman historian. She also spoke about evidence of black power in Newark during the 19th century. (Image of her speaking in class on this slide and next)

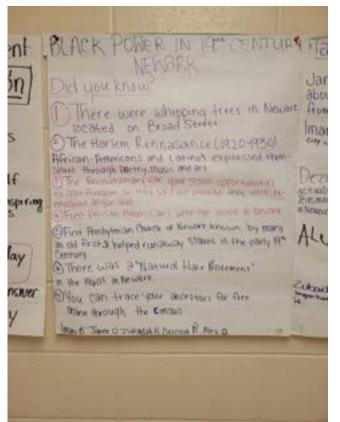
EXPLORING BLACK POWER IN THE 19TH CENTURY UNIT

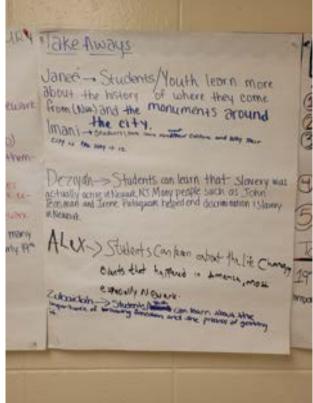


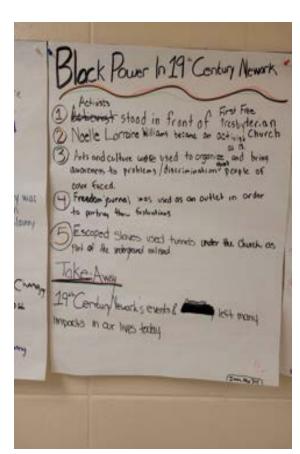
Students examined portions of the digital archive and produced posters displayed in the school that highlighted the following: (see image below)



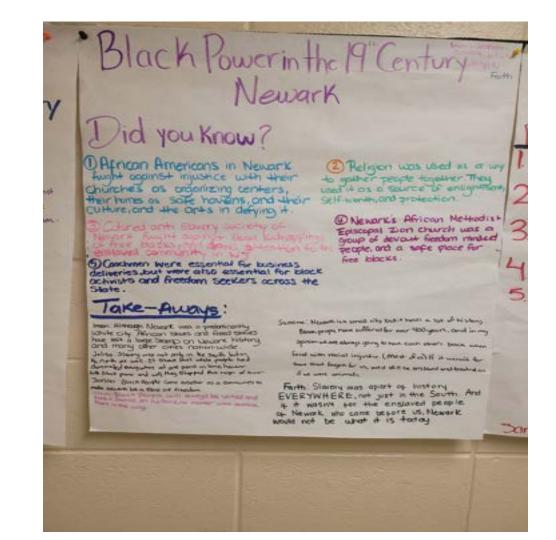
EVIDENCE OF STUDENT POSTER WORK







EVIDENCE OF STUDENT POSTER WORK

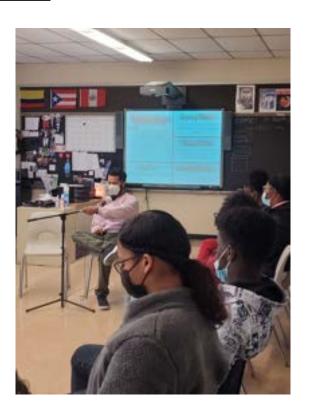


MURALISM & THE POWER OF BLACK ART IN NEWARK UNIT

Students learned about the long history of using art as a way to express, fight back, and celebrate black achievements and history in the city of Newark.

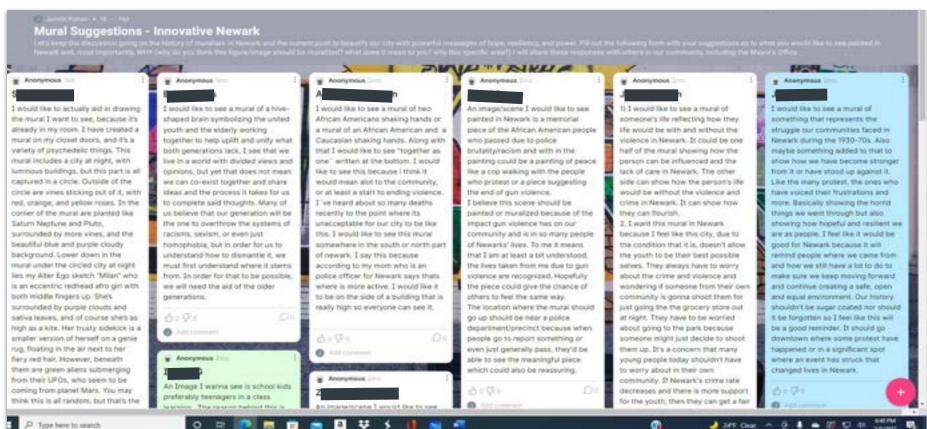
Students explored the history of murals in Newark. This includes analysis of murals already in the city, asking students what murals they would like to see in their city and why, as well as having a local male artist of color come speak about the history of muralism in Newark.

GUEST SPEAKER - LOCAL MURAL ARTIST, DAVID OQUENDO





STUDENT RESPONSES TO MURALS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN NEWARK



STUDENT RESPONSES TO MURALS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN **NEWARK**

Amonymous

An image/scene I would like to see

an African American child's eyes of

how they would be when they get

older when living in Newark. I think

storyline of how children are turning

Newark compared to the perception

in Newark turn out to be. This also

can be shown in a way of the child's

dreams of what they want to become

and how living in Newark would make

that dream come true. I think that

around Broad and Market especially

since a lot of people go to that area

The book of the standard local

Anonymous

the location should be anywhere

of what others think children who live

muralized because it shows the

out to be when they are fiving in

this image/scene should be

painted in Newark is the future inside

them are green aliens submerging from their UFOs, who seem to be coming from planet Mars. You may think this is all random, but that's the point. This mural also includes A smiling avocado with legs and hands, a laughing Sativa leaf, pink skies and blue oceans, and even a few sunflowers. One of my favorite parts of this mural is my Peace Symbol, which is a blue character I've created that has on a pink two piece crop top and short set with a peace sign headband and two big purple peace sign hoop earrings. She's meditating in the sky, floating with her eyes closed, and underneath her lies the words "Welcome to the ShitShow"! I think this would be a great mural because there's so many things to look at all at one time.

Anonymous

1. An image of African American teens having fun, doing things that teenagers should be doing. Many teenagers resort to gangs and gun violence. There has been a lot of killings of young teens in Newark lately and many shootouts.

2. I want the painting to give the message that there is still hope for teens and we need to help teens gain support and not participate in these

An Image I wanna see is school kids preferably teenagers in a class learning. The reason behind this is because most people when they hear newark they think about all the bad things such as gun violence and the killings but never about how actually smart and intelligent we are . Our school system isn't bad at all and we need to make that known. Most of our teenagers in newark are gang. affiliated and etc so hopefully seeing the image it shows them that we are more than that. The location for it can iterally be anywhere maybe in a location where violence occurs often or maybe in the ward that has the most schools in it

w Annymous

An image I would like to see painted in Newark is that of the former Basketball player Kobe Bryant, I like what he stood for. He believed in Black excellence and he's a proof that being successful even as an African American is very much possible. I would live to see this painted and placed probably at the city hall.

I want the mural to showcase the theme that there is light in any situation. I want it to have bright eye catching colors. I think it should be a burning city in the background then a pearl ball or something to the side soit could should show a good thing in the mix of a bad time. I feel like in

which could also be reassuring to worry about in their own community. If Newark's crime rate 0

* Ananymous - What murals I would want to see

I would like to see two best friends of different races, lets say Asian and African American, under the night sky, thinking about what it would be like to comfort one another whether If it's for mental health or something else because when they comfort each other, they should feel safe instead of being hated. Their mental health matters. I believe that this scene should be painted because those are the two races that don't get the protection and love that they need, they always feel onsafe and not only that, it's their mental health as well. I want this mural to be in the north ward of Newark so everyone can be able to see how amazing it's

0 ---

is Mural Suggestions

· Anonymous

I would like to see an image of Amiri Banaka painted in Newark, along the walls of historius of Nameric ocean

decreases and there is more support for the youth, then they can get a fair chance to be their best selves. I. I think a mural fixe this should be

on a side of a school building or in a place near a school that is highly affected by crime. This can really show and influence people that we as a community need to do better and be better for everyone here and everyone after us. If it is in a high traffic area that would be even better because it would have more people

· Anonymous

I would like to see a mural of POC together, smiling and being happy as a whole. This image should be muralized tiecause this can show. people that we can be happy and we don't always have to suffer to get what we want. This mural may have a positive impact on the community and make people feel great about themselves.



Anonymous

w Ananymous Limage of all of the persons who have contributed to the culture of art in Newark. Famous poets, dancers.

changed lives in Newark.

C total comment

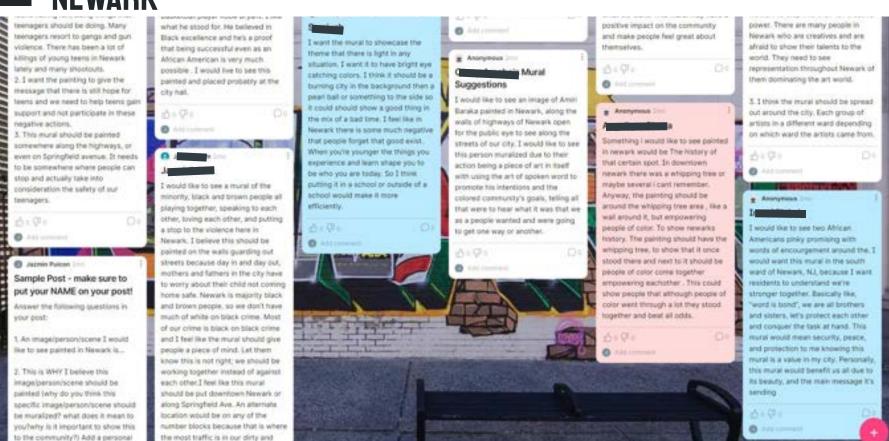
designers etc in the 20th century. The picture of the person with the aspect of art they contributed to: They would be drawn in groups(poets on one wall, dancers on one wat....) 2.I believe that this should be

pented in Newark because art is very important to Newark 's culture. By showcasing this it will show that Newark is not just a place right by New York, but it is a place filled with creativity and innovation. Art is very important to me because it is how I am able to express myself. By showing those who have came before us, it will inspire the people of Newark to step into their full creative power. There are many people in Newark who are creatives and are afraid to show their talents to the world. They need to see representation throughout Newark of them dominating the art world.

3. I think the mural should be spo out around the city. Each group of

STUDENT RESPONSES TO MURALS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN

NEWARK



NEWARK REBELLION '67 UNIT

Studying the Rebellion

- Reasons for community outrage
- Community Groups who

organized and fought for change

History of Newark Prior to Rebellion

- Newark
 Industrialization early
 1900s
- Black Businesses
 Grow
- Inequalities in Newark

What happens after the Rebellion in the Black community in Newark?

- Black Resistance & CFUN
- Black & Puerto Rican Student Convention
- Election of KenGibson

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON NEWARK REBELLION UNIT



The fact that many people died and were injured stood out to me. Another thing that stood out to me was the group of people coming together to fight the injustice they faced. The national guard and the state police releasing 13,000 rounds of ammunition over the course of five days is crazy. I mean 13,000 rounds must have hit a lot of people. People who were minding their own business and did not even have an idea of what was going got hit. For example the mother of I think about seven kids got killed while in her home. She didn't her time had come, she died an unfair death. The fact that the national guard and the state police did not get edited and repercussions is astronomically vicious.



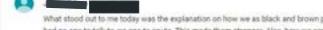
The different opinions on the Newsark Rebellion varied on each race. White people felt like they needed to protect their own, and they felt threatened by Black people standing up for themselves. However, Black people took this as more revolutionary, and they kept going because they wanted to fight for what was right. People of different communities stepped in to help, but what baffled me the most was that White people still didn't feel at fault for how they have affected the communities.



What stood out to me is the amount of ammunition that was used and how many were hurt and those who were lost. Also the fact that some of these things documented are most likely lies. What I liked is how our community worked together to establish organizations to help one another as well. They could not go to anyone and seek help from the government and they had to rely on the people and each other. One thing I noticed is how fear always overtakes someone (the police) and that leads to the worse.



What stood out to me today is that the political momentum gained a lot of Newark black's communities after the rebellion was clear. Another thing is that before the rebellion everything was to continued of the construction in spite of vocal organized resistance by the residents. But after the rebellion the balance of the political scales shifted. And also by 1969 there was a clearance impediment as saying the goal of elector black power in Newark. Newark became a powerful city of black power and black communities.



What stood out to me today was the explanation on how we as black and brown people are much more powerful than white people. One woman who spoke in the video brought up how the african american women were raped and they had no one to talk to, no one to cry to. This made them stronger. Also, how we carry ourselves everyday, literally scarce white people. This is what pushed the guards to do what they did. 1,000 civilians injure, 1,500 civilians arrested and 25 victims of homocide. They felt as thought they had to protect themselves as if we're uncontrollable animals. They treat us like dogs and monkeys. Also, to add to this, our words are so powerful that they have no clue what to respond with that would make logical sense with numbers and graphs. For example, when we protested for defunding the police because they weren't being punished for their wrongst it to the few white americans who were killed or badly injured by the police. When you compare numbers like 15 and 560 (example), you cannot compare at all!

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON NEWARK REBELLION UNIT





something that stood out to me was that Newark had its first black major in 1970. This stood out to me because there was a lot of things going on towards black people in Newark and they used to get treated so bad by the police. Now there is a black major who controls the police. I know a lot of people probably wouldn't have seen that coming. I think this is real progression and it shows you that you could do anything you want if you put your mind to it no matter the circumstance. I wonder how the racist police officers felt about a black man being the mayor.

After everything I came to see the Newark rebellion as one of those situations that just had to happen. The reason I say this is because although the Newark riots resulted in extreme violence and property demage. It served as an outlet possible encouraging various other communities to stand up for their unjust discrimination. The Newark Rebellion was a sad time but sometimes you have to touch the pot to see if it's hot.

I was very shocked to see the horizos that were enacted onto innocent people who simply wanted nothing more than a change in their community. It's said to see that throughout history the only way change the outlook and view of current society is with violence and uprising. Each battle that a person of color fights on a daily basis is just another reminder that the world hasn't changed, even if we say it's 'progressing' and we're getting there. Seeing that a man was shot 39 times proves that civility doesn't exist were from different backgrounds, and for those who choose not to follow in the footsteps of hate and prejudice, I believe they deserve their recognition; not only for being allies but for being human.

STUDENT FINAL PROJECTS

STUDENTS RESEARCHED AND PRESENTED EITHER A PROGRAM OR PRODUCT THAT WOULD CHANGE THEIR LOCAL NEWARK COMMUNITY



N.R.S Targets

UN SDGs

#1 No Poverty

#2 Zero Hunger

#3 Good Health & Well-being

#11 Sustainable cities and communities

- Low income families
- Lowering the amount of gentrified areas
- Increasing the amount of homeless shelters
- Food & clothes drives for people in need

Overall Goal: Provide more housing support in low-income neighborhoods and/or minority residents(non U.S. citizens)

Our City's Representatives & Topics on Gentrification

Is gentrification a good thing for Newark?

Not too long ago a city representative from city hall came and spoke about gentrification in ways that someone who doesn't live in our city would. We know that a lot of neighborhoods in Newark are low-income neighborhoods, so gentrifying them would leave families without homes.

These people make minimum wage and are food stamps with several children so of course they are residing where things are cheaper, but bait neighborhoods for people in better situations.

WHAT THEY'RE DOING IS NOT OKAY!!!



How Our Program Will Work...

 Our program will work as a nonprofit organization that will support low income families with housing by getting money via donations, community services, Grants, and complex owners to help us in our cause.

- We will have meetings with credit unions, bank tellers, real estate agents, realtors and other apartment/ home hunting reps to speak with our people to strengthen their wealth and themselves + families, and to renovate old buildings for use of shelters.
- We will create a union between tenants of every project building in Newark so that every choice that gets made, will have to be voted upon and signed for. This will decrease the amount of things hidden from tenants.



Our Goals / Reality

https://youtu.be/A0BID9PI5VY



We do not expect every meeting to be informative, we want our people to come to us as a safe space to talk about any and everything, or even just to let off some steam. We don't want to seem like we are wasting time, we are building community!





What's the problem/issue and how can problem



- We are trying to have better mental health treatment in the community for the people of Newark
- Our solution is to have a mental health center that is available for all types of people. There will be different branches of said centers so it can be specific to your needs and wants.





Our Plan

We plan to build a health center for people who are in need of someone to talk to. We will have multiple sections for different issues, and all of them will do their best to help you. Each section will also have different activities that can help you while you are getting treatment. There will be pools, gyms, and a gaming room. These are proven to relieve stress, and help relax you. It's also much harder to talk about an issue you are facing while you are in distress, but when you are in a better mood and smiling, you are more clear headed so you talk and listen better.











Where will it be?



The health care center(s) will be built in the southward of Newark. The south is an area that is in need of a lot of work, from the people in the community, to the community itself. A mental health center, amongst other things, is a great idea for people in the southward, young and old, to get a new feeling of positivity and understanding, that they probably haven't received before.







Who is it for?



DOTM is a program specialized to help and serve the people of our community suffering with mental health issues. Issues such as PTSD, Bipolar disorder, OCD, Gender Dysphoria, Facial Dysmorphia, and the top two most severe mental health issues: Anxiety and Depression. We welcome people of all ages and all genders and we give a warm welcome to our LGBTQ+ friends! We also welcome people who are struggling with getting back on their feet due to our connections to several welfare offices in the area.!











How are we different from the other organizations?



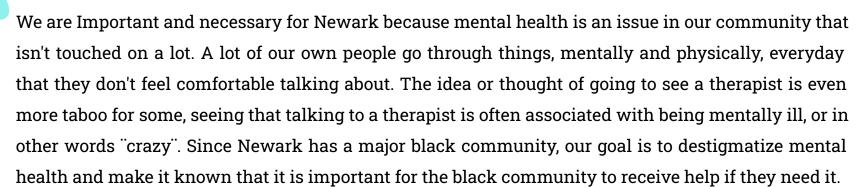
Shani Baraka Women's Resource Center - We are available to everyone, not just female presenting people. We want to make our program accessible to as many people as possible.

Summit Health Medical Group - We have rooms and areas that people can go relax and destress in before or after their appointments. We want people to be able to feel like their best possible selves throughout their time with us.





Why we are important and necessary in Newark?



Furthermore, a lot of our mental health centers here in Newark aren't available or aren't accepting new patients. Having more programs and centers in Newark isn't a bad thing and will be beneficial in the long term







Nami.org says that, "One study showed that 63% of Black people believe that a mental health condition is a sign of personal weakness. As a result, people may experience shame about having a mental illness and worry that they may be discriminated against due to their condition."

What this means for the future of Newark?



Long term, this helps the future of Newark a lot because when people have problems instead of taking their anger out on each other or on themselves, they can come to our center get as much help as they can there. This can drop the crime rate down which was up by 6% last year. Hopefully this will also encourage the people who come to the center to help other people with mental health issues, causing a domino effect of positive energy.





OVERALL STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

What was your favorite unit/reading in this course and why? 16 responses My favorite part was finding things based on Newark history of the riots Black church The reading about the young lords because it was really empowering and for a plus I'm Puerto Rican Felipe The young lords Art in Newark was my favorite unit because it taught me about the many artists within Newark that made great contributions to society. I also liked the project Newark had to create Murals in the city. My favorite reading was the young lords articles My favorite reading in this course would have to be the Rise Up readings about Amiri Baraka and his early life in Newark.

What was your favorite assignment in this course and why? 16 responses I liked the presentation the most because we got to really put something together that we can do in real Amiri Baraka Our presentations The Young Lord web chart to show what they did. The Project Presentation because me and my group was able to come up with ideas on ways to help the community. I liked making this presentation for the final. I was able to include things that I already use in my own therapy and things that I think I need more of. We were able to recognize and spread awareness on how much of a mental health crisis Newark has and hopefully people will listen and know that it's ok to get The presentation

OVERALL STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

What was your favorite assignment in this course and why?

16 responses

Newark riots

My favorite assignment in this course had to be the final presentation bo it was super interesting to try to create a program for my own city that would benefit our pekoe

The group project

My Favorite assignment was the Newark Riots.

Newark Rebellion, because it showed me the many hardships that Newark residents have went through, and still are going through.

my favorite assignment was the "my ancestor" assignment

My favorite assignment would easily be any presentations done in class where I was able to share my feedback on a topic verbally and show through posters or slides because I enjoy providing informational speeches.

What are three things you learned in this course?

16 responses

The riot, the history of some places in newark, the young lords

Young Lords, the different monuments and history held in Newark, and the riot that took place here.

About the riots, about protest, made up organizations in Newark

Breakfast program, black panther party, murals

I learned about the riots in Newark , the young lords and about Amiri Baraka and in the end how they all connected.

Learned about the young lords , felipe , and we learned about amiri barack's

The Young Lords, Amiri Baraka, and the Newark Riot.

- -The different groups within Newark(polish, Italian, German,etc)
- -How influential the Young Lords were
- -Black owned businesses in Newark

OVERALL STUDENT COURSE EVALUATIONS

In what ways, if any, has the course or the instructor encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?

16 responses

Yes, I learned more about my city.

This course bettered my understanding of Newark, and taught me to be more open minded.

This course was full of talking/speaking so it definitely helped build my confidence

it increased my intellectual growth towards my people;

My instructor was able to encourage me to to presentations since I'm always nervous to do so.

Dr. Pulcon always had a great attitude. She is so understanding of any issues and will always accommodate you. The fact that there aren't consequences for late work and that we can always catch up when need be is helpful.

It's given me more information about my community and home. It's also taught me about things such as the Young Lords which I didn't know was a thing.

It provided much more knowledge about my city and things I wouldn't have learned in the first place.



RESULTS - FUTURE PARTNERSHIP & STUDENT RESPONSES



8 Partnerships Secured w/Outside Organizations 93% of Student

Satisfaction w/Course 100% of students improved primary & secondary source analysis In what ways, if any, has the course or the instructor encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?16 responses

This course was full of talking/speaking so it definitely helped build my confidence

It increased my intellectual growth towards my people.

It made me realize so much about my city that i didn't know

Made the class interesting and exciting

She pushed us to our greatest potential even putting us in some hard groups but in the end we made it work.

It encourages us to think outside of the box

It's given me more information about my community and home. It's also taught me about things such as the Young Lords which I didn't know was a thing.

It provided much more knowledge about my city and things I wouldn't have learned in the first place.

I am able to present better than I did before.

This course bettered my understanding of Newark, and taught me to be more open minded.

RESULTS - FUTURE PARTNERSHIP & STUDENT RESPONSES



In what ways, if any, has the course or the instructor encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?16 responses

By Dr. Puicon being there when you need assistance and helping me by giving constructive criticism allowed me to push my thought process and execute meaningful work.

My instructor was able to encourage me to to presentations since I'm always nervous to do so.

Dr. Puicon always had a great attitude. She is so understanding of any issues and will always accommodate you. The fact that there aren't consequences for late work and that we can always catch up when need be is helpful.

Yes, I learned more about my city.

The instructor has encouraged my growth by allowing me to find more of myself in my own work and assignments and really allow that side to thrive.

This course and the instructor helped me challenge my mind and open it more to the things going on or that did go in in Newark.