

## MALCOLM X AND RACE RELATIONS

### Performance Standard (16DUS/16DW).F

Read an excerpt from the 1965 autobiography of Malcolm X and have students create a “Profile Poster” of this late African American leader accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: identify events in Malcolm X’s life;
- *Reasoning*: explain his philosophy and ideas about race relations in the United States; and
- *Communication*: create a poster that is well-organized and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

### Procedures

1. *In order to understand Illinois, United States and world social history (16D)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
  - Predict the impact that a controversial figure’s ideas on changing social conditions had on contemporary interest groups.
  - Describe social changes that resulted from cultural exchange between and among different societies.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Have students discuss situations of race relations in the United States or in other nations and some of the ways the issues are approached.
4. Distribute copies of the Malcolm X excerpt.
5. Read aloud the excerpt with the students, taking time to discuss ideas presented by him and to answer any student questions concerning the content or the era in which he lived.
6. Have students create a “Profile Poster” of Malcolm X’s ideas concerning race relations. Using poster board, students will design and create a pictorial/descriptive representation of Malcolm X and some of his ideas concerning race relations. Give the poster a title.
7. Allow students to divide their poster up any way they wish, but the following five areas or topics must be represented: 1) a brief history of his life up to the point of the autobiography (at least 3 major events in his early life that helped shape his future), 2) his attitude concerning violence, 3) the way he feels about the philosophy of non-violence, 4) his ideas of how true brotherhood between black and white will be achieved, 5) his advice to sincere white people (3 pieces of advice) concerning their role in improving race relations.
8. Each of these five topics must be covered using one side of the poster board.
9. Students must use both graphic or pictorial representations as well as words, paraphrases and actual quotes for each of the five sections of the poster.
10. A variety of mediums may be used as is available in the classroom (markers, colored pencils, construction paper, etc).
11. Evaluate each student’s work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
  - *Knowledge*: the identification of Malcolm X’s ideas is based on the five topic areas above are accurate and complete.
  - *Reasoning*: the explanation of Malcolm X’s ideas is thorough and logical.
  - *Communication*: the poster is well-organized and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

### Examples of Student Work follow

- The other for the actual construction of the project

### Time Requirements

- Students will have two regular class periods to complete this task
- One class period will be used for the reading/discussion of the excerpt and preliminary design of the poster

### Resources

- Copies of the reading
- Poster board for each student
- Materials for poster creation
- Social Science Rubric

## Autobiography of Malcolm X

*Malcolm Little was born on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska. His father was a Baptist minister and a supporter of Marcus Garvey and the UNIA (United Negro Improvement Association). In 1946 Malcolm Little was imprisoned for robbery, and it was in prison that he began to read about and study the condition of African Americans. It was also in prison that Malcolm Little converted to the Black Muslim faith and changed his name to Malcolm X. After leaving prison, he became a widely known minister in Nation of Islam. He preached black separatism, black nationalism, and pride in race and racial achievements. The following excerpt is from his 1965 autobiography. As you read the excerpt, think about the state of race relations today.*

From Call To Freedom Holt, Reinhart Winston copyright © 2000

They called me the “angriest Negro in America.” I wouldn’t deny that charge. I spoke exactly as I felt. “I believe in anger. The Bible says that there is a time for anger.” They called me “a teacher, a fomenter {inciter} of violence.” I would say point blank, “That is a lie. I’m not for wanton [unjustified] violence, I’m for justice. I feel that if white people were attacked by Negroes-if the forces of law prove unable, or inadequate, or reluctant to protect those whites from those Negroes-then those white people should protect and defend themselves from those Negroes, using arms if necessary. And I feel that when the law fails to protect Negroes from whites’ attack, then those Negroes should use arms, if necessary, to defend themselves.”...

“I am for violence in non-violence means we continue postponing a solution to the American black man’s problems-just to avoid violence. I don’t go for non-violence if it also means a delayed solution. To me a delayed solution is a non-solution. Or I’ll say it another way. If it must take violence to get the black man his human rights in this country, I’m for violence.”...

I am in agreement one hundred per cent with those racists who say that no government laws ever can force brotherhood. The only true world solution today is governments guided by true religion-of the spirit. Here in race-torn America, I am convinced that the Islam religion is desperately needed, particularly by the American black man...

“Since I learned the truth in Mecca, my dearest friends have come to include all kinds-some Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, agnostics, and even atheists! I have friends who are called capitalists, Socialists, and Communists! Some of my friends are moderates, conservatives, extremists-some are even Uncle Toms! My friends today are black, brown, red, yellow and white!”

I tell sincere white people, “Work in conjunction with us-each of us working among our own kind.” Let sincere white individuals find all other white people they can who feel as they do-and let them form their own all-white groups, to work trying to convert other white people who are thinking and acting so racist. Let sincere whites go and teach non-violence to white people!

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# Malcolm X's Ideas

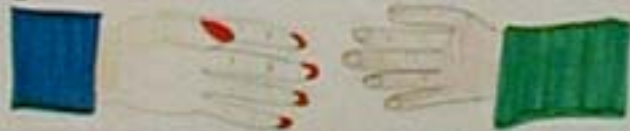
## Early Life

Malcolm Little was born in Omaha, Nebraska on May 19, 1925. In 1946 Malcolm was imprisoned for robbery. He converted to Black Muslim faith and his name became Malcolm X.



## True Brotherhood Ideas

He believed that no law could force brotherhood. Religion can help create brotherhood, and he thought Islam religion would help.



## Violence

### Attitude

He believes in violence if non-

violence isn't helping the American black man's problems. If violence means black's gain human rights, he is for violence.



## 3 Pieces of Advice to Sincere Whites

Malcolm told sincere white people to: Work in conjunction with us - each working among our own kind. Let sincere whites find other whites and change racist whites minds, and let sincere whites teach non-violence to white people!



## Feelings Towards Non-Violence

Malcolm X found non-violence acceptable if it helped the situation. If it postponed the situation, he believed violence was the answer.





Text of Poster  
 Malcolm X and Race Relations  
 Exceeds Poster

<p>History of X        Malcolm X was born on May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska. His Father was murdered in 1931. X thought he was killed by Ku Klux Klan, or so everyone thought. X thought so, too, but he was actually killed by getting hit by a car. Soon, his mother went crazy and went to a mental institute. X lived in a Foster home for a few years. He did go to jail in 1946 for 6 years. There he learned about religion. In 1964, before he was going to make a speech, he got shot to death by Muslims.</p>	<p>Malcolm X's Life        "These people work together .... Can you?        "Whose your best friend?"</p>	<p>Free Brotherhood        The non-face system would work if everyone were guided by the true religion. It can't be forced, but we can try!</p>
<p>Attitude on Violence        In X's words, "I am for violence if non-violence means we continue postponing a solution to the American's Black man's problems, then let it be!", meaning he'll have violence for justice. But anything else is wrong. For example, the war on terrorists. We're fighting for justice. But if you're fighting for 100 bucks you found, yes you want it. There are other ways to settle it though. Malcolm thinks that!</p>	<p>If you feel the same way X does, black or white, go convince someone to do the right thing. Don't force them, because sooner or later they'll know what's right. I'd say don't convince them bad things, but convince your self, your brain, to not be races because of their color, how they look, no, but how they act, think.</p>	<p>Philosophy on Non-violence        I agreeX, sometimes violence is a good. In the bible it says there is a time for anger, but not all the time. Don't fight because someone looks different, but because how they act!         Don't be races. The world might end up like this.</p>