Food for Thought: Food Activists

Objectives

- Students will discuss food activism, food access, and food justice.
- Students will define terms: food desert, food swamp, access
- Students will identify activists who are working to combat injustices regarding: food quality, food access, food waste, etc.
- Students will use a projector as a drawing tool
- Students will create an installation featuring food activists

Grade Levels: 5th-8th

Vocabulary and Terms

Activism, food access, food swamp

Resources

Materials

18x24” colorful paper, sharpies, Bingo daubers, cardstock paper

Procedures

1. Begin by leading students in learning about food access and how most under-served areas of the country have less access to wholesome foods. Allow most of the conversation to center around those are fighting this through activism.
   Create a list of food activists together, if possible. We decided to feature the following food activists: Michael Pollan, Samin Nosrat, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Bryant Terry, Joel Salatin, Michelle Obama, Pashon Murray, Natasha Bowens, Dara Cooper, Sean Sherman of the Sioux Chef, Dolores Huerta, DeAndre Brooks, Erika Allen, Nicole Robinson, Anton Seals Jr., Robbin Carroll, The Gardeneers, Jia and Emmanuel Pratt

2. Project image of each activist, one at a time, onto colorful paper. Demonstrate using a sharpie to outline the most important parts of portrait onto paper. Cut around outline.

3. Have students draw food items based on questions: what are your favorite comfort foods? What are your favorite fruits and vegetables? What is a food tied to a happy memory? (We wanted to be careful to not place any shame around a certain type of food. Students could draw any food, even if it might be considered a ‘junk food.’)

4. Use Bingo daubers to color in food.

5. Create installation with portraits and food drawings.