CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION  1
From Classroom to Community  3
Dorothy and Earl  5

CHAPTER 1: The Articles by Purpose  9

CONNECTING TO ISSUES  10

a. Catalyst Materials  11
   Illustrations  12
   School and Home  12
   Quizzes And Surveys  14
   Quiz: Immigrants and the Economy  14
   Immigration Myths and Facts  15
   Charts and Graphs  17
   Poverty and the Minimum Wage  17
   Community Research  19
   Community Economics  20
   Activity: Money Mapping  21
   Poetry  22
   Tires Stacked in the Hallways of Civilization  23
   Environmental Print  25
   The Neighborhood Where We Work  25

b. Personal stories  27
   My Life Story  28
   When I Go Home I’m Going to Talk Indian  31
   Love for People and for Education: An Interview with Klare Allen  33
   Educación de Adultos: The Perspective of a Latina  36
   Drawing to Write: A Look at Our Childhood Houses  39

c. Academic Skill-Building  41
   Math
   Mathematics and Housing  42
   Creating Charts and Graphs  44
   What Countries Are in Your Closet?  45
Media Literacy
Talk Back to Your TV! Teach Your Children to Question What They Watch 47
How to Detect Bias in News Media 50
Editorial Cartoon Analysis 52
Comparing the Media at Home and Here 53
Using Three Excerpts from Deadly Persuasion by Jean Kilbourne 54

Reading and Writing
Teaching Standard English: Whose Standard? 57
Deconstructing Euphemisms: A Lesson Plan 59
Whose Point of View? Two Classroom Approaches 61
Four Effects of Viewing Media Violence 63
Getting the Facts about Homelessness 66

ANALYZING ISSUES 69
America's Health Care Crisis 71
Welfare “Reform” Violates Poor People's Human Rights 74
High Rise in Housing: The Sky's No Limit 78
Students for Sale: How Corporations Are Buying Their Way into America's Classrooms 81
Income Inequality: Bad for Your Health 84
The Voucher Argument 86
Does Putting People in Jail Cause More Crime?
An Interview with James Gilligan 88
You Are What You Eat: Learning about the Food System 93
Voting Rights 99

SUPPORTING STUDENT ACTION 103
Questions: A Powerful Tool for Self-Advocacy 104
Student Activism at Dorcas Place 107
Persistence Pays Off: Enrique Helps Draft a Law to Protect Low-Literacy Workers 110
Step One: Talking Things Out 112
Anti-Violence Program at Operation Bootstrap 115
Working Toward Critical Literacy, Community Development, and Social Action 118
CHAPTER 2: Building Thematic Units 121

Thematic Unit Planning Form 122

TAXES (ESL) 123

What Do You Think? Agree/Disagree Activity 126
If You Don't Like Paying Taxes… 127
Are Taxes Fair? 128
Tax Cuts: Who Do They Help? 129
How Would You Spend the Federal Tax Dollars? 131

IMMIGRATION (ASE/GED) 134

Reclaiming America 136
Who Are You Calling an Immigrant? 137
Who Benefits from Globalization? 140
Dagoberto García’s Story 143
Striving Women 145
The Dilemma of Citizenship 146

WORK AND THE ECONOMY (ABE) 148

Work Histories 150
Today’s Economic Climate 152
How Has Your Real Hourly Wage Changed Over the Years? 154
The Ethics of Work 156
Union Tries to Strike a Balance 159

CHAPTER 3: Dealing With Difficult Issues 163

It’s a Beginning 164
Homophobia in the Classroom: One Teacher’s Response 166
Teaching to Unlearn Racism: A White Perspective 169
Personal Cultural History Exercise 172
Responding to Disclosures of Abuse in Women’s Lives: A Guide for Teachers of Literacy 173
Violence Behind the Wall 176
Acting Out 177
Feeding Our Whole Selves in the Literacy Classroom 179

INDEX: Topics and Skills 183