



THE CHANGE AGENT

CALL FOR ARTICLES: Indigenous Peoples (Issue #48)

YOU MUST include in *all* articles and emails the contact information for the student and/or the teacher.

THEME: Indigenous people are those who are the original inhabitants of a certain area. Their ancestors were the first humans to live in that place. They have traditions, languages, and cultural practices that are different from the people who came later and colonized that land. Many Indigenous people were killed by colonizers or died from the diseases that the colonizers introduced into their communities. Today, thousands of Indigenous nations survive all over the world. They continue to thrive in their communities and also to fight for their right to maintain their indigenous language, culture, and land. Many adult learners in the U.S. are Native American, and many others are Indigenous people from their country of origin who have now immigrated to the U.S. With this issue of *The Change Agent*, we are excited to hear their voices, shine a light on their struggles, celebrate their resilience, and learn some of their history. Prompts include:

A. If you identify as Indigenous...

1. Please share the name of your tribe or nation and where it is located. Share two or three aspects of your culture that you especially appreciate.
2. What is your favorite traditional story or teaching from your tribe or nation?
3. How have you grown up connected to your tribe or nation and connected to other cultures? How are you and your family navigating being members of two or more cultures?
4. What is your community doing to maintain and celebrate your native language and culture and to help children grow up with native language and traditions?
5. Share a story about your heritage that was passed down to you from your parents, grandparents, or other relatives. Interview an elder from your community and share what you learned from her/him.
6. Write a short history (or part of the history) of your tribe or nation.
7. Consider a specific problem that your tribe or nation faces today, such as poverty; high rates of diabetes; few native speakers; water, air, or land contamination; or mental health and substance use challenges. What is the larger context for this problem? How are you and/or members of your community managing this problem?
8. The world faces many environmental challenges today, including climate change and other environmental disasters. What lessons, traditions, or practices does your tribe or nation have that might offer solutions for these problems?
9. Consider another problem we face in dominant U.S. society (eg. health disparities, substance use and mental health challenges, income inequality, gun violence, etc.). Describe the problem and describe what lessons, traditions, or practices your tribe or nation might offer that would help lead to a solution.

B. For anyone to respond (Indigenous or not)...

1. In the Americas, most Native American communities experienced enslavement and genocide when white Europeans started invading their lands. Reflect on how and why that happened. What drove the settlers or colonizers to commit these crimes? How did Native people resist?
2. Do you know of any examples of “truth and reconciliation” processes between Native people and colonizers? If so, describe what happened. What do you think about it?
3. What rights do Native people have? Who (or what) protects those rights? What rights should they have?
4. When colonizers suppress Indigenous cultures and languages, how does this loss affect the entire human community? What might be one step that starts to address this loss?
5. What are some of the stereotypes you learned as a child about Native people? What are some of the phrases or labels used in dominant society to demean or belittle Native people? How have you tried to correct those? What could we do as a society to correct those?

SEE NEXT PAGE for information about deadline and submission guidelines: 

DEADLINE AND GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS: November 2, 2018. **Make sure to include contact information.** Send to: cpeters@worlded.org. Learn more at: changeagent.nelrc.org/write-for-us. Instead of long and general essays, we would like to see stories that are specific and detailed. Limit the scope of your story, but tell it fully. Suggested length is 200-800 words. Final decisions are made by *The Change Agent* editorial board. A \$50 stipend will be paid to each adult education student whose work is accepted for publication.

PLEASE SEND MATERIAL BY EMAIL to cpeters@worlded.org. Cynthia Peters, Editor, World Education, 44 Farnsworth St., Boston, MA 02210 Phone: 617-482-9485 fax: 617-482-0617 The mission of *The Change Agent* is to provide news, issues, ideas, and other teaching resources that inspire and enable adult educators and learners to make civic participation and social justice concerns part of their teaching and learning. changeagent.nelrc.org

Illustrations are Welcome Too!

USE ART TO TELL YOUR STORY! Send us your cartoons, illustrations, or any form of graphic storytelling. Make sure your art is created in response to the Call for Articles, and make sure your images are high enough quality and high enough resolution to be reproduced in the magazine. Questions? Contact cpeters@worlded.org.