

The Change Agent: Relevant Content for Distance Learning



Riva Pearson

ESOL Program Manager

JVS, Hyde Park



Cynthia Peters

Editor, *The Change Agent*

World Education

First a tour of *The Change Agent's* website

<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/>



A review of what we visited:

1. A list of all our issues:
<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/issues/>
2. The “In the Classroom” tab:
<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/in-the-classroom/>
 - a. Lesson Packets
 - b. Index with Article Reading Levels and Audio
 - c. Invite Students to Write for *The Change Agent*
 - d. *Change Agent* webinar recordings
3. Subscribe!
<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/subscribe/>



Paper in an Online World

- Easier on the eyes.
- Students can write on paper.
- Easier for students to refer to paper copies than shared screen.
- Paper is tactile -- breaks up zoom experience.



Content

Every issue talks addresses things important to students

- Race
- Health
- Immigration
- History
- Current Events
- Cultural Context

Strategies for Healing

Elizabeth Nguyen

All of us need healing from the way that racism has impacted our lives. People of color—Asian, black, Latin@, Native American/Indigenous—need practices of healing to restore our spirits after painful experiences and to strengthen our ability to face inequality.

Often when bad things happen in my life because of racism, I don't know what to do. I feel sad. Or angry. Or frustrated. Or powerless. I feel sad that I don't know how to speak Vietnamese because my dad thought it was more important for

I try to take action because when I am changing our racist system, I am showing myself that transformation is possible.

me and my brother to speak good English. I feel angry that the police came to the school where my friend works as a janitor and handcuffed him because they thought that he must be trespassing or stealing since he's black. I've learned a lot of tools from activists, family, and friends to help my heart face racism.

I try to connect with something bigger than myself. In my house, I have a small altar with candles, incense, quotes, and photos of my ances-

tors. I put things on the altar that inspire me and remind me of everyone else who is struggling for a better world. I also try to connect with my own spirit by making time to sit in silence. Just sitting (even on the train or bus!) for five minutes in silence and breathing makes me feel more calm and less scared. I also love to make *pho* or Vietnamese coffee—things that make me feel connected to my communities.

I try to take action because when I am changing our racist system, I am showing myself that transformation is possible. When I tell my story about a racist experience, interrupt someone who is using racist language, recognize a racist thought in my head, attend a protest, or help to change a law, I am healing through acting for justice.

I try to put myself in the way of beauty since so much of life is hard. I make sure to cuddle the baby that I live with or take a moment to look at the leaves on the trees or listen to a song with a positive message. Some of my favorite songs for struggling against racism are "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free" by Nina Simone, "I Am Not My Hair" by Indie.Arie, "I Like the Things About Me" by Mavis Staples, and "Something Inside So Strong" by Labi Siffre.

What helps you heal when you encounter racism?

Elizabeth Nguyen is a Unitarian Universalist (UU) minister, and she is the Leadership Development Associate for Youth and Young Adults of Color.



Religious leaders action at the Department of Justice in St. Louis on the anniversary of Michael Brown's murder by police. Photo by Heather Wilson.

AFTER YOU READ: What are three things Elizabeth does to aid her own healing? Discuss your healing strategies. What's on your healing play list?

Using the “Transportation” issue in the online classroom



Issue 43

changeagent.nelrc.org

September 2016

THE CHANGE AGENT

Adult Education for
Social Justice: News,
Issues, and Ideas

TRANSPORTATION

I Ride My Bicycle to Class: 3
Walking Gets Me There: 4
The Lady on the Bus: 5
Mighty Blessings: 6
This is How I Leave Prison: 7
I Don't Want to Miss One Thing: 9
Using Transportation in U.S.: 10
The Camel Did a U-Turn: 12
Do Not Follow the Crowd: 14
Different as Sky and Land: 16
Free to Travel: 17
Comparing Two Systems:
The DR and Boston: 18
Haiti and Boston: 19
Man and his Shopping Cart: 20
Dismantling Public
Transportation: 21
Along the Racial Rail: 24
What is Transportation Justice: 26
People Before Highways: 28
Make Your Voice Count: 30
People and Public Transport: 32
Biking Keeps Us Healthy, Alive &
Paid: 33
Bicycling—Why Not?: 34
For Our Health, For Planet: 35
Organizing to Improve Bus
Service: 36
Transportation is a Human
Right: 37
See Something, Say Something:
38
It's No "Breeze": 40
Stuck in the Snow: 42
Ride Yellow; Go Green: 43
MARTA Man in the Making: 44
Jobs in Transportation: 45
Getting Ahead in Transport: 46
Bus Driver is a Multi-Tasker: 49
The Ride There: 50
The First Railroad War: 52
Prison Transport: 54
Transported to Hell: 55



Ricardo Levins Morales, first published in the 2015 St. Paul Almanac

ENGAGING, EMPOWERING, AND READY-TO-USE.

Student-generated, relevant content in print and audio at various levels of complexity—designed to teach basic skills & transform & inspire adult learners.

A MAGAZINE & WEBSITE: CHANGEAGENT.NELRC.ORG

Each article has multiple parts for teaching

What is Transportation Justice?

Andy Nash

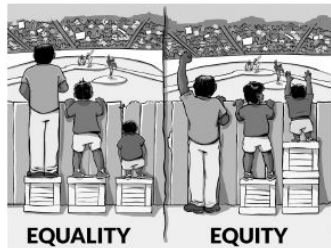
EXPLORE VOCABULARY: Justice means fairness. What does fairness mean? Look at the picture below. On the left, everyone has the same size box. Is that fair? Why or why not? Explain the difference between equality and equity.

ACTIVITY: Make a list of all the things you use transportation for. Compare your list to other students' lists. Is access to transportation an issue of justice? Why or why not?

Equality

Transportation justice is about making sure that all people have access to jobs, childcare, health care, education, and other fundamental services or activities. Affordable and reliable transportation is essential for addressing poverty, unemployment, and other goals of equity.

According to Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, "Millions of low-income and working-class people, people of color, and people with disabilities live in communities where quality transportation options are unaffordable, unreliable, or nonexistent." His organization reports that the nation's poorest families—many in rural commu-



Transportation Budget?



According to AAA's "Your Driving Costs," it costs \$8,604 per year to drive a medium-size sedan, assuming you drive about 15,000 miles.

1. If you earn \$20,000 per year, approximately what percentage of your budget do you spend on your car? What if you earn \$50,000 per year?
2. How much does a monthly bus pass or commuter rail pass cost in your area? Calculate the cost difference between owning a car and using public transportation.
3. Try this calculator <www.commtans.org/about/drivingcostcalculator> to find out how much you spend on your car.
4. How could we make access to transportation more equitable?

nities—spend more than 40 percent of their take-home pay on transportation. It also reports that three out of five entry-level jobs are not accessible by public transportation. So what is a poor person to do?

Environment

Transportation justice is also about the right to clean air and a livable environment. Currently, transportation is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions—the gases that contribute to climate change. GHGs are created when we burn fossil fuels to drive our vehicles and fly our planes. All of this transportation-relat-

ed air pollution contributes to significant amounts of illness, especially in poor communities that have high exposure to asthma-causing pollution and limited access to health care.

According to environmental advocates, there can be no effective movement to reduce fossil fuel and automobile usage until there is a well-developed public transportation system that people can rely on. Until then, the culture of the automobile, which cuts across every social and economic class in this society, and heavy marketing by the auto industry, will keep us dependent on cars.

Transportation Justice Demands

Well-funded, low-priced, public transportation

The federal government allocates 80 percent of its transportation funding to highways that serve automobile users. This leaves public transit systems underfunded and leads to massive fare increases and service cuts in urban and rural areas.

A clean-fuel, bus-centered mass transit system

Transportation activists support a strong system of clean-fuel buses and vans, which can cover hundreds of miles and hundreds of thousands of riders, rather than more rail lines, which cover fewer miles and carry fewer riders for the same price.

Transportation as a civil right

As companies and industries relocate to more profitable locations, and jobs move with them, residents are even more dependent on affordable public transportation. We need to prevent economic and social isolation by ensuring that people have a way to travel to employment and community services such as schools, libraries, and banks. Public transportation should be a civic priority that is treated as a civil right.

Sources: <www.reimaginerpe.org/node/305>, <www3.epa.gov/oaq/climate/basicinfo.html>, <www3.epa.gov/climatechange/gfgenissions/sources/transportation.html>, <www.reimaginerpe.org/node/305>, <www.civilrights.org/transportation/?referrer=>>, <www.climate-solutions.org/article/1424471143-inspired-transit-riders-and-climate-justice-sweet-spot>, <drioberbulland.com/2013/01/23/a-call-for-transportation-justice-now/>

Andy Nash is director of the New England Literacy Resource Center.

Transportation Justice Over the Years

For each struggle in these photos, discuss whether or how it is a matter of equity.



Freedom riders demand desegregated buses.



Disability rights activists demand access to buses.



Bus riders' unions demand affordable fares.

Listen online or download MP3

READING LEVEL 12

▶ What is Transportation Justice?

Andy Nash

▶ Equity

Transportation justice is about making sure that all people have access to jobs, childcare, health care, education, and other fundamental services or activities. ▶ Affordable and reliable transportation is essential for addressing poverty, unemployment, and other goals of equity.

▶ According to Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, “Millions of low-income and working-class people, people of color, and people with disabilities live in communities where quality transportation options are unaffordable, unreliable, or nonexistent.” ▶ His organization reports that the nation’s poorest families—many in rural communities—spend more than 40 percent of their takehome pay on transportation. ▶ It also reports that three out of five entry-level jobs are not accessible by public transportation. So what is a poor person to do?

- Easily download MP3s of audio and upload to google classroom.
- Good for listening, reading fluency, and pronunciation.
- Students can listen and then record themselves reading the article.
- Use for dictation during video class.
- Since google classroom is accessible by phone- can also do listening anywhere.
- Reading is slow, but sounds natural.

Compare and Contrast: Country of Origin and US

Different as Sky and Land

Sayed Sayedi

There is a big difference between our transportation in Afghanistan and the transportation in the U.S. It's like the difference between sky and land. In Afghanistan people still use animals because we don't always have roads. Even in our capital, most of the roads are not paved. We have traffic lights, but many do not work. Also, there are no street lights, so it's difficult to drive at night. People don't always use seatbelts. Sometimes two people use the same seatbelt, which is dangerous. People walk in the streets, and the drivers don't pay attention. A car once ran over my foot as I crossed the street, and I have seen many people hit by cars. In the U.S., the roads are paved. The traffic lights and street lights work. Most people follow traffic laws and watch out for others. In Afghanistan, travel can be crazy. Travel in these two countries is as different as sky and land.



Sayed Sayedi is an ESOL student in the North Kansas City School District Adult Education Program in Kansas City, MO. He is married and has four children. Education is very important to his family, and he is enjoying all the new things he is learning in America.

Transportation in Afghanistan		Transportation in the United States	
Infrastructure	People's choices	Infrastructure	People's choices

Fill out this chart. Write what the author says about infrastructure and people's choices in Afghanistan and in the U.S. ("Infrastructure" refers to the buildings, roads, and power supplies we need for transportation.) Do you agree with the author that the two countries are as different as sky and land?

Free to Travel

Wan Kievlan

In my city in South Korea, everything is close together. Often, you can walk to the store. People use public transportation because it is less expensive than owning a car. Also, there are many buses, so if you miss one bus, you don't need to wait too long. The subway works well, too. It can save you a lot of time.

In the U.S., everything is spread out. You need a car to get to the store. There are some buses but they don't run near my house, and sometimes you have to wait a long time for the bus to come. I needed a way to get to the store and to work, so my husband taught me to drive. We would fight a lot while I was learning. I failed the driver's test two times, but I got my license the third time. It was so exciting. I felt like I could go anywhere I wanted any time I wanted. I felt free.



Wan Kievlan is an ESOL student at the North Kansas City School District Adult Education Program in Kansas City, MO. She met her husband during his military service in South Korea where she worked as a teacher. They have two children and enjoy life in the U.S.

Transportation in South Korea		Transportation in the United States	
Urban design	Public transportation	Urban design	Public transportation

Fill out this chart. Write what the author says about urban design and public transportation in South Korea and in the U.S. ("Urban design" refers to rules that say what buildings and roads the city will look like, and how it will be used by regular people.)

Compare and Contrast: Country of Origin and US

Comparing Two Systems The Dominican Republic and Boston

Glendy Suazo

Google Maps

One thing I love about public transportation in Boston is that you can use Google Maps to figure out how to get where you want to go. Google Maps will even tell you whether the bus or the train has some delay and the exact time you will reach your destination. There is nothing like this in the Dominican Republic (DR). In my country, the buses do not run on a dependable schedule, and you can't track them on Google Maps! Also, the price changes with no warning.

Drivers Take Care

Another difference between public transportation in Boston and the DR is the treatment of passengers, especially people with disabilities and kids.

For example, one day I took the bus to school with my little son and I didn't know that I didn't have money on my Charlie Card. I opened my wallet to try to pay the driver, but he told me, "Don't worry about it." I was shocked. I called my mother who lives in the DR and told her what had happened to me. She said to me, "They would never do that in the DR! They would tell you to get off the bus."

I also told my mother the things that you can see in the bus here that we don't have in my country. For example, when someone in a wheelchair boards the bus in Boston, the driver takes extra precautions to make sure they're safe. The driver leans the bus down on one side so these people can easily climb on, and the bus has special space for people with disabilities or a wheelchair. Seeing that for me was amazing. I love the public transportation in Boston, because it is more efficient and comfortable.

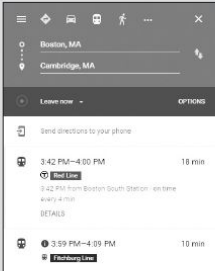
Conclusion

The public transportation in Boston still has some problems. For example, one time I had to wait a long time for a bus #14 to American Legion, but I think the public transportation here is much better than in the Dominican Republic.

Glendy Suazo is from the Dominican Republic. She studies English (Level 3) at Mattapan Family Service Center in Boston, MA. She has two beautiful children, ages eight and five.



Google Maps gives real-time transit information



Is your bus late? Use Google Maps to find out. It will also give you an alternate route. Find lesson ideas here: <<https://forteachers.weebly.com/blog/lesson-ideas-using-google-street-view>>.

Comparing Two Systems Haiti and Boston

Sheyla Solage

In Haiti, the government does not have very many buses. They are crowded, inefficient, and not accessible to everyone. But in Boston, the system is much better.

Comfort

In Haiti, buses don't really follow a schedule, and there are no designated stops. Sometimes too many buses come at the same time, and sometimes they don't come for hours and hours. When a bus finally comes, you have to fight to get on, especially during rush hour. There are so many people and it is so hot, it is hard to breathe. In Boston, even when the bus is full, you feel comfortable.

Efficiency

Another problem with traveling on the buses in Haiti is that the trip is not efficient. Sometimes the driver does not follow his route, so you have to take three buses instead of one. This costs you more money! There are no rules for the drivers. They do what they want. In Boston, the driver



Instead of buses, many people in Haiti use "tap-taps" ("quick-quick"). A tap-tap is a privately-owned pick-up truck with two benches in the back.

starts from one point and goes to another point. They aren't allowed to change their route.

Infrastructure

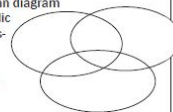
In Haiti, there is no infrastructure for disabled people. The streets and sidewalks are not accessible, and the buses are not equipped for them. It made a great impression on me to see how Boston bus drivers treat the elderly people, the children, and the people with disabilities. For example, the bus driver can lower the bus for people who are in a wheelchair or for those who can't make the big step up onto the bus.

We still experience some problems with public transportation in Boston. For example, one day, I was waiting for the bus. My phone said it was supposed to come in 5 minutes, but it came 20 minutes late. It was very hard for me because that day was so cold. Even with problems like that, I think the public transportation here is much better here than in my country.

Sheyla Solage is a level 3 ESOL student at ABCD in Mattapan, MA. She's from Haiti. She's been living in Boston since 2013.

Diagram It!

Make a 3-way Venn diagram showing how public transportation systems in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the U.S. compare.



Why Read/ Why Write?

“I like Sayed’s story because I like the words ‘sky and land.’ What perfect words for explain the big difference of the both of transportation in Afghanistan and U.S.” -Rolande

“Because of the title of the article [Different as Sky and Land], it makes me like to read it first.” -Simon

“It was interesting to know that in Korea they have so many transportation benefits.” -Mary

**“My favorite article is Comparing Two Systems (Dominican Republic and Boston) because...I felt familiarity when I read this article. I had the same experience when I saw the driver stopped the bus to make sure the man with wheelchair was safe. I also called my mother and told her what happened.”
- Rana**

“Haiti and Boston [was my favorite] because Haiti is my country, I was born there. I lived in Boston for three years and I am learning many things in this system and I continue learning about it.” -Marie

Reading Comprehension

Assignment

Title

Transportation Activity 6: Change Agent pages 16-19

Instructions (optional)

1. Read the articles on pages 16, 17, 18, and 19.
2. If you want to listen while you read, you can click on the link below to listen to "Free to Travel" on page 17.
3. complete the quiz
4. answer the questions in the google doc
5. We will talk about these readings in zoom class on Wednesday.

 Add

 Create



Transportation Change Agent pages 16-19
Google Forms



Free to Travel.mp3
Audio

Students can view file



Change Agent: Transportation pages 16-18
Google Docs


Each student will get a copy

- With google forms made simple quizzes.
- With google docs did comprehension worksheets.
- With the PDF could share the screen during video classes and highlight specific sentences or sections.

Using Student Responses to Guide Class

- In the class comments section of google classroom, students commented before the class discussion
- I could see their comments before class and incorporate their thoughts into my plan for class


Class comments



Mary Isabel Ramirez Santana Apr 16

1-Transportation justice is about making sure that all people have acceso to jobs, childcare, healt care, education, and other fundamental services or activities.


2- The drivers are more careful with the space between them and the passengers, they are only opening the rear door of the buses to avoid close contact. They are requiring the use of masks on passengers and are shortening the time between one bus and the next to avoid crowding.



Lavoit Dalsaint Apr 16


According to the text I could say that, transportation justice is a way the government uses some resources from their budget to help the communities. Because some of them don't have access to health care, reliable transportation, education, jobs, and community services such as libraries, banks, etc.... Public transportation should be a civic priority that is treated as a civil right. Also make sure they live in a safe environment without pollution.

I think about this situation, things become different with the covid19. The government should do more because the communities are in needs and something should be done now to avoid the worst. Despite the Federal Government has taken some measures but people steel died with the pandemic and some community are very affected.




Bob L Occeus Apr 17

This is about an equitable transportation system that all people have access to job ,childcare, education and other fundamental services or activities. For example people needs to have the ability to go where they want easily and safely even if he has disabilities.



Bob L Occeus Apr 17

I think the federal government must allocate more money in the transportation funding for million people of low income and working class people, people of color,and people with disabilities live in communities where quality transportation options are unaffordable, unreasonable. Instead invest 80 percent of this fund in highways .



RANA Rony Apr 19

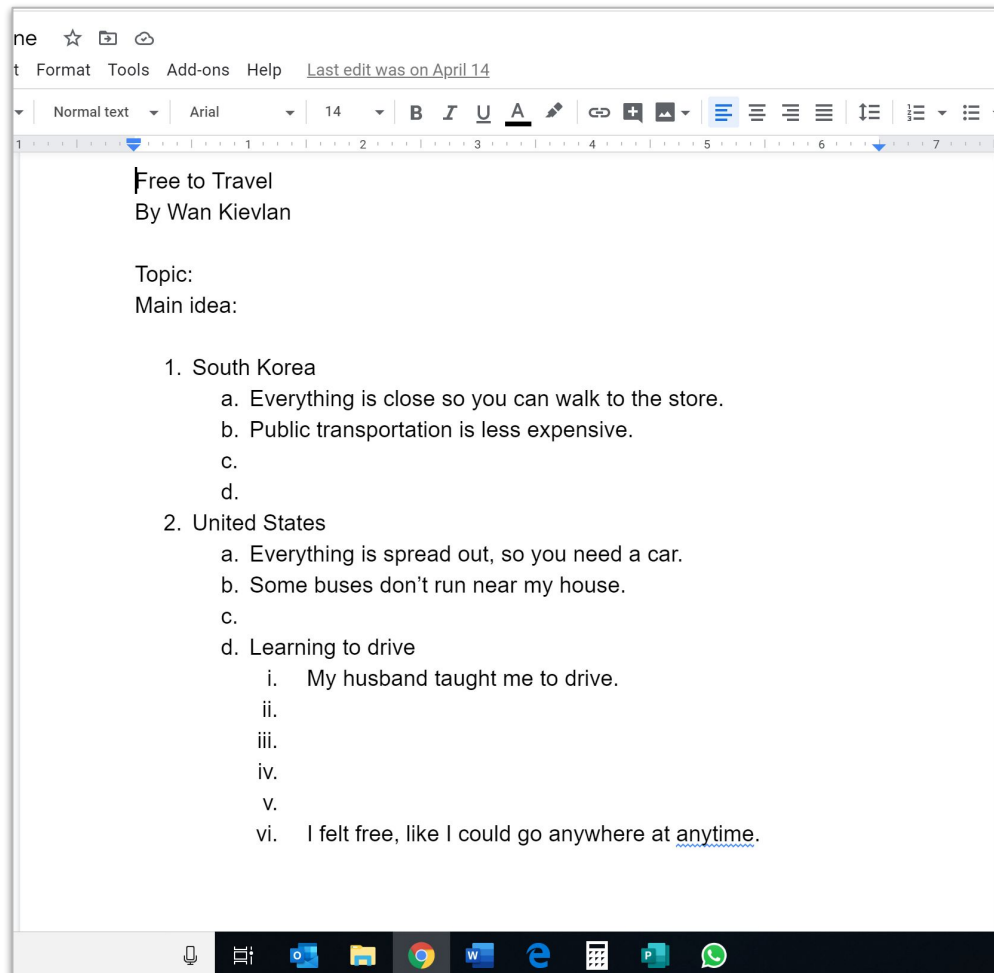
Transportation justice is about making sure that all people have acceso to jobs, childcare, healt care, education, and other fundamental services or activities.

2-I'm concur with all of your opinions above that Indeed the government must to make some

Reading for Writing

Each issue has different writing styles.

- Narrative
- Descriptive
- Compare-Contrast
- Argumentative
- Research
- Interviews
- And more



Writing for the Change Agent

- 4 students submitted for the forthcoming Pandemic issue of *The Change Agent* this time and one get selected.
- Posted prompts in google classroom (edited because there were a lot)
- Used google docs for co-editing.
- As a teacher, helpful to see who was chosen to be able to help students for next time.
- Huge confidence boost for students- just submitting something raised their confidence.

Be on the lookout for the next *Change Agent* “Call for Articles”

(published twice a year in August and February)

<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/write-for-us/>

ONLINE access is free...

ONLINE access is low cost...



*...if you are in a
state-funded program in
New England. Contact us to
find to get access.*

*...if you live outside New
England. Visit our
website to subscribe at
very low cost!*

<https://changeagent.nelrc.org/subscribe/>