

Tea Party

1. Find someone who was forced to speak another language. Who is the person? How did this affect the person?
2. Find someone who lives on a different continent than you do. Who is the person? How is his or her experience with language similar to your experience? How is it different?
3. Find someone who is resisting having another language imposed on him or her. Who is the person? How is the person resisting?
4. Find someone who started or joined an organization to preserve his or her language. Who is the person? Why did the individual decide to take this action?
5. Find someone who was punished or penalized if the person spoke his or her native language. Who is the person? How exactly was this person treated? Who did this to the person?
6. Find someone who has an example about the importance of his or her traditional language? Who is the person? Why is his or her language important to him or her?

HANDOUT: Language and Power Tea Party

7. Find someone who was humiliated or shamed for speaking his or her language. Who is the person? What country is this person from? How did he or she feel about the experience?

8. Find someone who said farewell to English and writes only in his mother tongue. What is this mother tongue? Why doesn't this person want to write in English? What country is the person from?

Reflection: Whose story touched you? Who would you like to know more about?

Collective text: Write a paragraph about language and power. What do the people who are forced to change their language have in common? How do they feel about their language? What are your thoughts about this? Give specific examples.