

Plan on a Page: Reflecting on the Danger of Silence

Guiding Questions:

- What does it mean to have a voice? What is the relationship between agency and voice?
 - How do I empower myself to take action on behalf of myself and others?
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Activities:

1. Warm Up with a Notable Quotable

Project the following quotation and questions for a pair-share and discussion: “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends.”

- What do you think Dr. King wants us to consider?
- Which one do you think is more powerful, the “words of enemies” or the “silence of friends”? What makes you say that? How do you think Ebony would answer this question?
- What do you think about the relationship between agency and silence? How might one impact the other?

2. Watch a Video about the Consequences of Silence

Play **The Danger of Silence** and have students respond in their journals to one **Take Note** question. Then have them share their ideas in pairs.

- What is the most important point?
- What are you finding challenging, puzzling, or difficult to understand?
- What question would you most like to discuss?
- What is something that you found interesting?

Then discuss the following questions as a class:

- What are some of the factors that contributed to whether or not Clint Smith felt like he had agency in a given moment?
- What lessons about power, agency, and voice can we take from Smith’s story that we might apply to our own lives?

3. Create a Voice, Empowerment, and Action Blackout Poem

Share a model of a blackout poem and have students create their own using the reading **The Danger of Silence Transcript** and the questions: *What does it mean to have a voice? What is the relationship between agency and voice? How do I empower myself to take action on behalf of myself and others?*

4. Engage in a Celebration of Learning and Creativity

End the class with a **gallery walk** so students can share their work.