

Lesson Plan

Who Tells the Story?

Book: *Dolores Huerta: Labor Organizer*

Series: Important Women

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students identify the differences in two sources about the labor movement and the importance of recognizing alternative historical narratives.

Supplies

- *Dolores Huerta: Labor Organizer* book
- Access to the PBS Learning Media “Cesar Chavez: Labor Leader and Civil Rights Activist Video” web page:
<https://tpt.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/americon-vid-cesar-chavez/video/>
- Access to the PBS Learning Media “Who Gets to Write History?” web page:
<https://tpt.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/write-history-dolores/write-history-dolores/>
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Make sure each student has a pencil and paper. Pull up both web pages.

Activity

Often, the history that we are taught gives just part of the story. Students will explore this idea by reading a book and watching a video on the labor movement.

First, have students read through the *Dolores Huerta: Labor Organizer* book. While reading, students should take notes on the book’s key points. Then, have students watch the video on Cesar Chavez. Students should take notes on the video’s key points. Afterward, invite a class discussion on the following question:

- How do this video and the *Dolores Huerta: Labor Organizer* book differ in talking about the same events in history?

Next, watch the “Who Gets to Write History?” video as a class. Invite a class discussion on the following questions:

- Why do you think so many people have heard about Cesar Chavez but not Dolores Huerta?
- What message does it send to focus on Cesar Chavez but not Dolores Huerta?
- Why is it important to recognize Dolores Huerta’s role in the labor movement?

Evaluation

Could students identify the differences in how the two sources described the labor movement? Could they articulate the implications of those differences, and why alternative narratives are important to recognize?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 5 (RI 5.1), and the National Council for the Social Studies standard 2.