

Lesson Plan for class on Citizenship

Material: "When the Levees Broke," Spike Lee film about New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina

Key Concepts: civic engagement, civic responsibility, the common good

Essential Questions:

- 1) What are citizens' responsibilities in a democracy?
- 2) Is the common good more important than individual rights?
- 3) What is the right balance between individual **rights** and individual **responsibilities**?

Group Activity followed by discussion:

What does it mean to be a citizen?

View the film clips:

Complete the chart on the back of this paper (Westheimer and Kahne matrix, 2004) as you view the clips from the film. Where does each individual's action fall on the scale?

Your response:

Respond to these questions (approximately one page)

- 1) According to the three types of citizenship, where do you fall on the chart?
- 2) What actions would you be likely to take in a similar situation and why would you take those actions?
- 3) How civically responsible would you rate yourself?
- 4) How civically responsible would you like your neighbors to be?

