

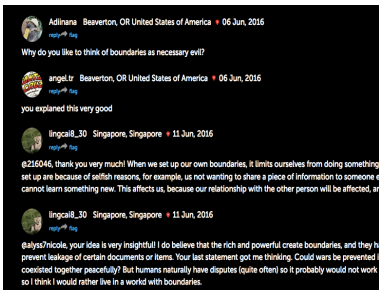


Educating for Civic Agency

Carrie James, Ben Mardell, Danielle Allen, & Ron Berger



#PZ50th



Agenda

4 PZ ideas about educating for civic agency

3 Case Studies

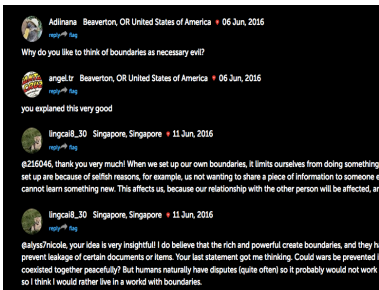
Our Boston (Kindergarten)

Policing Practices (12th Grade)

Everyday Borders (~10th-12th Grades)

Conversation about implications

Looking to the future



Educating for Civic Agency: 4 PZ ideas

Civic agency is multi-faceted

The digital world offers possibilities and risks for young people's civic agency

Specific pedagogical moves support civic skills & agency among school aged children

Young children (as well as older students) are civic agents

Boston Public School Students

55,843 Students

45% First Language Not English

20% on Individual Education Plans

70% from Economically Disadvantaged Families

42% Hispanic; 35% Black; 14% White; 9% Asian;
1% Multi-racial (other)

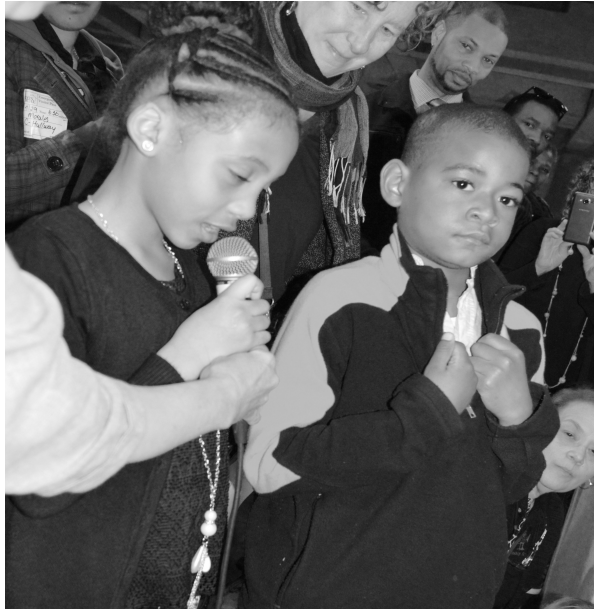
4000 Kindergartners in 200 Classrooms

Case #1: Our Boston



Boston City Hall

May 2016



Reyani Mills

We decided to make a park where parents have to play with their kids. They have some lockers so they can put their phones in when they are at the park and not use them and signs to tell them there are no phones allowed unless it's an emergency.

Rashand Peterson

We made a lot of big equipment in the park so the grown ups can play with the kids and the stuff isn't too small for them. We made a big adult slide and monkey bars and swings for them next to the kid equipment.



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

November 18, 2014

Dear Boston Public School Kindergarteners,

My name is Marty Walsh and I am the Mayor of Boston. You live in Boston and are some of the youngest and most important residents. As Bostonians, you have the right to share your opinions about our city.

I hear you are learning about structures as part of the construction unit. I have a question for you: **What suggestions do you have about construction in our city to make Boston a fairer and more interesting place for children?** I am sure you know a lot about Boston. You know about buildings you see near your homes and your schools. It is important that construction, such as parks, buildings and roads, are fair and interesting.

This is a big question so take your time answering it. Talk to your classmates, your teachers and your family. Do research to get ideas. Write your ideas and please make a model to help me understand your ideas better.

I look forward to learning about your ideas and seeing your model.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

BOSTON CITY HALL • ONE CITY HALL SQUARE • BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS • 02201
617-635-4500 • www.boston.gov



What suggestions do you have about construction in our city to make Boston fairer and a more interesting place for children?

Fair

*Everyone has or can do
the same thing*

Interesting

What you love to do

*What you want to learn
more about*

Initial Ideas

A basketball court for little kids (because big kids are always using the other courts and the hoops are too high for kindergartners to dunk on)

Ice cream and candy shops in every apartment building

A free amusement park that you could go to when ever you wanted

Clean homes with no bugs or mice

Reyani – *We need lockers so that parents can put their phones away in a safe place. They don't want their stuff to get stolen because they would get mad and not be in the mood to play.*

Rosalee – *There should be keys for the lockers with a number on it so that they know which locker it went in.*

Taylor – *Maybe no iPads or electronics either because then they might just FaceTime their friends on an iPad instead of their phone.*

Lewis – *We can put signs up that say “No phones allowed.”*

Leilani – *Yeah, but what if there is an emergency and they need to use the phone for help.*

Reyani – *Okay. Well then maybe it can say, “No phones allowed unless it is an emergency.”*

Maurice – *My dad does like to play with me, but he always says the playground is too little for him and like he can't fit on the slide.*

Trez – *Yeah, if my dad tries to do the monkey bars with me then his feet can just touch the ground.*

Rashand – *Maybe then we need to have big equipment for the grownups like big slides and big swings and monkey bars so that they can use it.*

Jackson – *My mom is always hot at the park, so maybe we can have a water part too, so if the grownups get hot they can go there.*





chair

Tok Tok

Maurice Leilani

We have 19 in our class student



ONE BIG SLIP
CING & TON LEN
NEP JING
CASHING
DOTE AS

WAPT POL
PRK DOP

BIRD'S
BOSTON
MURD

TING



Leilani – *I like four different doors so no matter what direction you come from there is a way to get in.*

Reyani – *But then the parents might not remember what door they left their cell phone.*

Jackson – *We can put a number on each door – 1, 2, 3, 4 – and the key will say what entrance*



Pair-share

What did you notice?

What's exciting?

What's challenging?



Case #2: Policing in America



Policing in America: Using Powerful Topics and Tasks to Challenge, Engage, and Empower Students

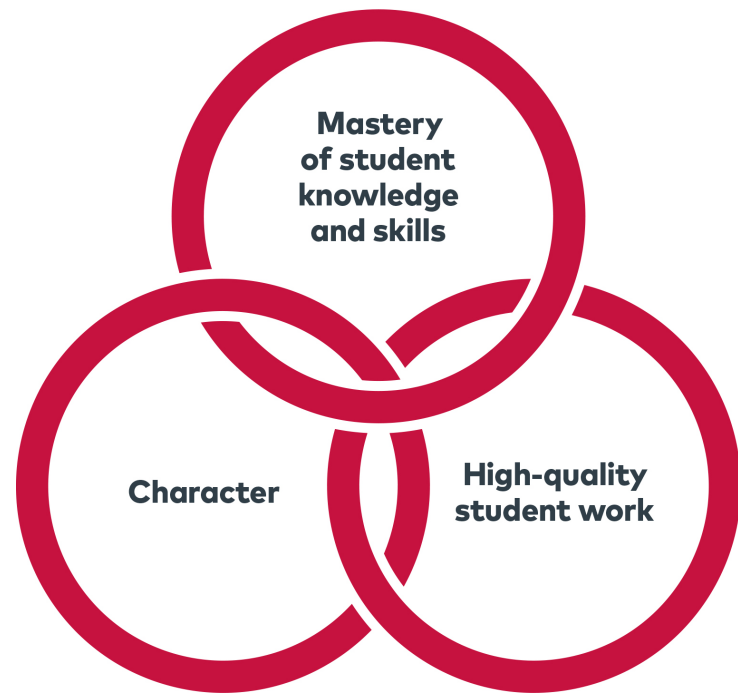
from **EL Education** PRO 1 year ago | [more](#)



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An Expanded View of Student Achievement

- Mastery of knowledge and skills
- Character
- High-quality student work



EL Education's Framework for Character

- Work to become effective learners
- Work to become ethical people
- Contribute to a better world as active citizens





VIDEO: Policing in America: : Using Powerful Topics and Tasks to Challenge, Engage, and Empower Students.

Available at: <https://eleducation.org/resources/policing-in-america-using-powerful-topics-and-tasks-to-challenge-engage-and-empower-students>

Pair-share

What did you notice?

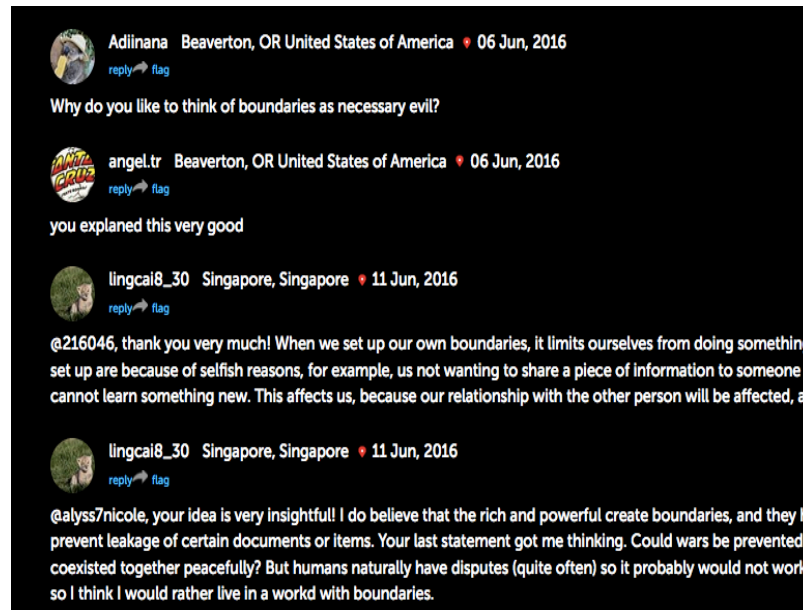
What's exciting?

What's challenging?


Any connections or contrasts with Case #1?




Case #3: Everyday Borders




A screenshot of a Twitter thread on a black background with white text. The thread consists of four tweets. The first tweet is from Adlinana, asking a question. The second is a reply from angel.tr. The third is a reply from lingcai8_30, thanking a user and providing a detailed explanation. The fourth is another reply from lingcai8_30, further elaborating on the topic.

 Adlinana Beaverton, OR United States of America • 06 Jun, 2016
reply flag


Why do you like to think of boundaries as necessary evil?

 angel.tr Beaverton, OR United States of America • 06 Jun, 2016
reply flag

you explained this very good

 lingcai8_30 Singapore, Singapore • 11 Jun, 2016
reply flag

@216046, thank you very much! When we set up our own boundaries, it limits ourselves from doing something, set up are because of selfish reasons, for example, us not wanting to share a piece of information to someone else cannot learn something new. This affects us, because our relationship with the other person will be affected, and

 lingcai8_30 Singapore, Singapore • 11 Jun, 2016
reply flag

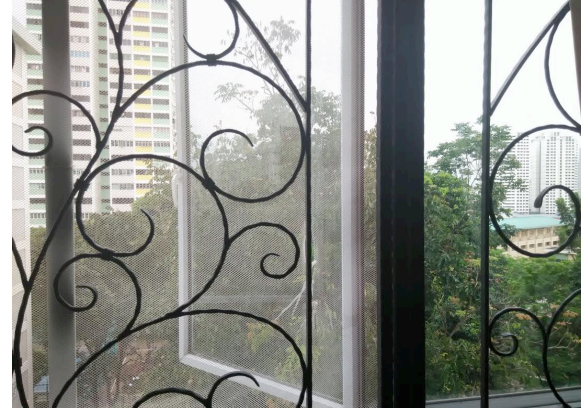
@alyss7nicole, your idea is very insightful! I do believe that the rich and powerful create boundaries, and they have prevent leakage of certain documents or items. Your last statement got me thinking. Could wars be prevented if coexisted together peacefully? But humans naturally have disputes (quite often) so it probably would not work so I think I would rather live in a world with boundaries.

Free online learning program for
youth around the world

slowing down, sharing stories, making connections



Out of Eden Learn is generously supported by The Abundance Foundation & Global Cities, Inc., a program of Bloomberg Philanthropies

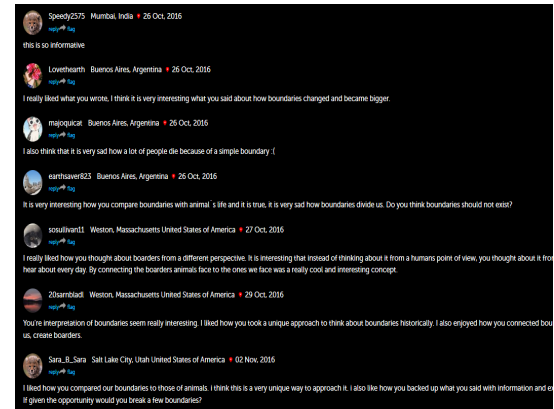
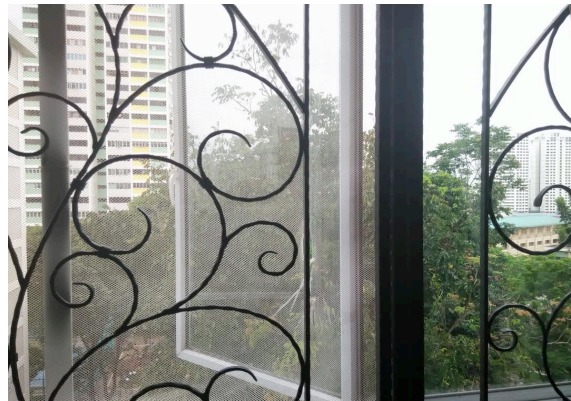
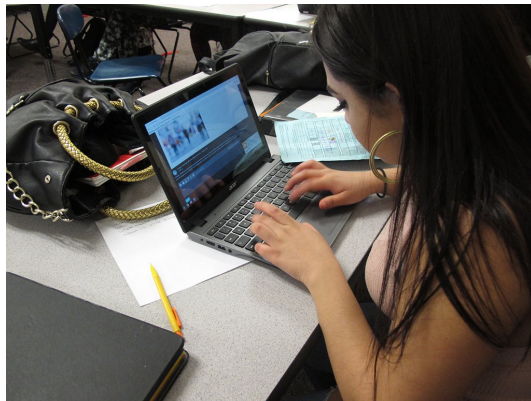


Speedy2375 Mumbai, India • 26 Oct, 2016

Everyday Borders

As I walked through my neighbourhood, I thought about boundaries. From this I concur that boundaries are all around us, not only in our world but also in the animal world. Different animals like wolves and leopards mark their territories using the scent of their urine or making claw marks across the bark of a tree. Its very similar to our world. Boundaries were originally made to map out the area over which a king rules. Slowly these boundaries became international boundaries separating countries all over the world. Boundaries are responsible for most of the battles fought throughout history, today these boundaries yet exist. Battles are still fought.

Different countries and governments control these boundaries. Border Forces are made to protect the boundaries of a nation. Many lives are lost over cross-border firing. It is very sad.







Online learning group

Oregon, US

British Columbia, Canada

Singapore

Utah, US

Victoria, Australia

Featured classrooms

Merlo Station Community High School Beaverton, Oregon, US

“Non-traditional” school

Serves youth (including teen parents)
who need specific supports

85% qualify for free/reduced lunch

67% Hispanic; 30% White

Nanyang Girls School Singapore

A premier independent secondary
school

1700+ girls

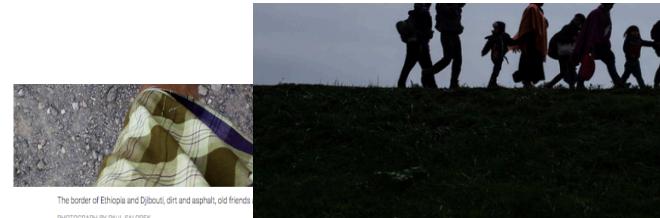
A bicultural and bilingual institution
(Singaporean and Chinese)

Special Learning Journey: Stories of Human Migration

In this curriculum of 4 footsteps, students explore stories of human migration and reflect on their own relationship to the topic.



Everyday Borders



The border of Ethiopia and Djibouti, dirt and asphalt, old friends.
PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL SALOPEK

Borders Matter

By Paul Salopek



"Sorry!"

It is the Djiboutian gendarmes. They smile from their hands in a sympathetic gesture.

One of their patrols has detained us, confiscated my and Sumai'atull. They have marched us here, to the explanation. Because we have staggered down a mo into the blurry no-man's-land between Ethiopia and gimcrack, no alien geogaw, no child's toy called a Gi-c, was going to use my precious zainoqani cameleers where they stood on the face of the Earth: that we had crossed, unwittingly, into Djibouti.

Crossing Borders

by Ciril Jazbec

Favorite this Photo Essay + f t p e o

I had never imagined that I would be doing a refugee story practically on my own doorstep. I had been following reports for quite a while on what was happening in Syria and the tragedies in the Mediterranean where hundreds of refugees drowned after their boats sank. The wave of Syrian refugees, however, quickly took a different course—across the Balkans, through Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, and now Slovenia, my homeland.

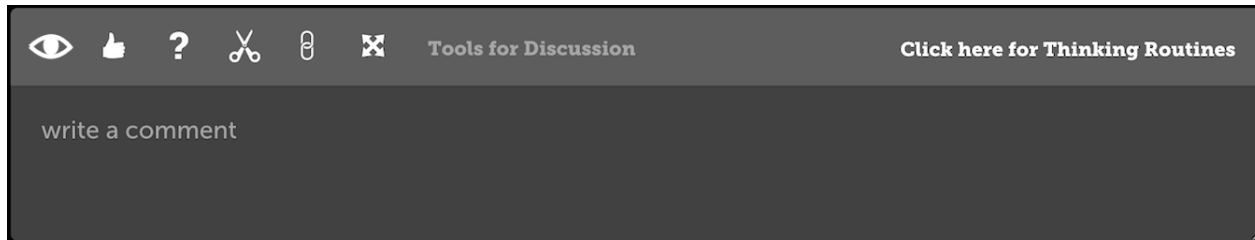
Take a slow walk* in the area where you live and/or go to school & consider the following questions: *What kinds of borders and boundaries do you notice? How is your movement restricted or enabled?*

Photograph, sketch or produce a map of the different kinds of borders or boundaries that you notice.

Reflect. Write up your reflections. You may want to explore the following questions: *Why do you think borders and boundaries exist? Who do you think sets and controls them and why? Do you ever set your own boundaries?*

Post your reflections along with your photos, sketch or map.

Interact with your online peers



Notice: What stands out to you or catches your eye in this person's post? In other words, what do you notice in particular? Be specific.



Snip: Cut and paste a phrase or sentence from the original post into your comment. Ask a question about it or say what you find interesting or important about what is being said.



Extend: Describe how the post extended your thoughts in new directions or gave you a new perspective.



lingcai8_30 Singapore 05 Jun, 2016

Why do boundaries exist?

There are many kinds of boundaries, [including] physical and non-physical... Physical boundaries are between and across regions and countries, while non-physical ones are those in our minds.

In both cases, boundaries only exist because we, as humans, allow them to. Some reasons could be for the greater good, such as to maintain sovereignty in countries, or to protect us from harm....

Boundaries may also give us a sense of place and belonging...

Boundaries may also exist due to our selfishness, for example, the hunger to have more territory.



lingcai8_30 Singapore 05 Jun, 2016

Who do you think sets up or controls boundaries?

All of us set up boundaries of our own, and most boundaries that we set up affect others in one way or another.

Boundaries are controlled by those who withhold a certain authoritative power, over other people or just themselves.



lingcai8_30 Singapore 05 Jun, 2016

Do you ever set your own boundaries?

Every person has some boundaries of their own... I like to think of boundaries as a necessary evil.

I subconsciously set up boundaries in my mind when I hesitate, or start to doubt myself. Sometimes, when that wall goes up, it is hard for it to come down. One example would be when I'm reading something that contradicts my original set of beliefs. At first, I usually doubt their opinion, but as I read other articles, slowly I break that wall down and cross the boundary.

Boundaries protect me from harboring dangerous ideas, or exposing myself to greater harm. One example would be approaching my sister when she is angry (haha just kidding).



The border I have chosen is something quite commonly seen, a construction barrier. This acts as a boundary protecting us from what lies beyond.

From this boundary, I let myself accept the fact that not all boundaries are evil.



The second boundary is a danger sign. There are only 4 languages on the sign, so does that mean people who do not speak those languages are unable to receive the message of the sign?

Language boundaries prevent us from going further in life, to really understand others and deepen our understanding of the world.

Is there a way to overcome this language boundary?



Tools for Discussion

[Click here for Thinking Routines](#)

write a comment



Adlinana Beaverton, OR United States of America • 06 Jun, 2016

[reply](#) [flag](#)

Why do you like to think of boundaries as necessary evil?



angel.tr Beaverton, OR United States of America • 06 Jun, 2016

[reply](#) [flag](#)

you explained this very good



lingcal8_30 Singapore, Singapore • 11 Jun, 2016

[reply](#) [flag](#)

@216046, thank you very much! When we set up our own boundaries, it limits ourselves from doing something, set up are because of selfish reasons, for example, us not wanting to share a piece of information to someone else cannot learn something new. This affects us, because our relationship with the other person will be affected, and



lingcal8_30 Singapore, Singapore • 11 Jun, 2016

[reply](#) [flag](#)

@alys7nicole, your idea is very insightful! I do believe that the rich and powerful create boundaries, and they help prevent leakage of certain documents or items. Your last statement got me thinking. Could wars be prevented if we coexisted together peacefully? But humans naturally have disputes (quite often) so it probably would not work so I think I would rather live in a world with boundaries.



angel.tr

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[reply](#) [flag](#)

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216046 Beaverton, OR United States of America 06 Jun, 2016

This is great. I like how in the second paragraph you said that we all set our own boundaries. What do you mean that setting up our own boundaries affects someone one way or another?



lingcai8_30 Singapore 11 Jun, 2016

@216046 thank you very much! When we set up our own boundaries, it limits ourselves from doing something, or from others doing something to us.

If boundaries are set up for selfish reasons – for example, us not wanting to share a piece of information with someone else – this negatively affects the other person because they cannot learn something new.

This affects us, too...we will not get to learn from them either.



Adii-nana Beaverton, OR United States of America 06 Jun, 2016

Why do you like to think of boundaries as a necessary evil?



lingcai8_30 Singapore 11 Jun, 2016

@Adii-nana, I believe that boundaries exist for a good reason, and if they still exist, it should be for an even better reason.

Boundaries may limit our learning in life or gaining experience from a certain place, but it could be for the better.



alyss7nicole Beaverton, OR United States of America 06 Jun, 2016

Do you ever believe that the rich and powerful create boundaries?

Sometimes boundaries are created by our system based on how much money we have. Not only is it physical and mental but there is a system set up...and I believe that we do not choose that.

So if authority does choose, what do you think about that? Do you like having boundaries or would you rather live in a world without them?



lingcai8_30 Singapore 11 Jun, 2016

@alyss7nicole, your idea is very insightful! I do believe that the rich and powerful create boundaries, and they have their reasons. It could be for personal safety, or to prevent leakage of certain documents.

Your last statement got me thinking. Could wars be prevented if there were no political boundaries? If every nation coexisted together peacefully? But humans naturally have disputes (quite often) so it probably would not work out. Boundaries are there for a good reason (sometimes) so I think I would rather live in a world with boundaries.

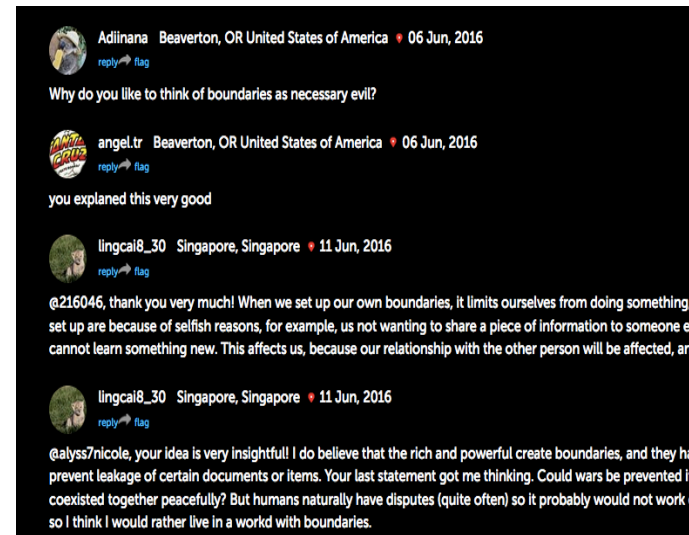
Pair-share

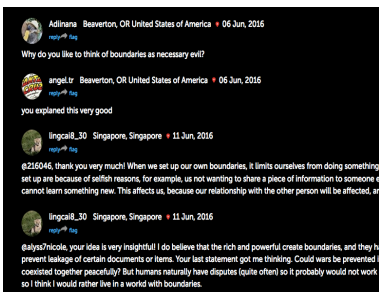
What did you notice?

What's exciting?

What's challenging?

Any connections or contrasts with Case #1 or #2?





Reflections across the cases

What opportunities do these cases present for supporting civic agency, from early childhood through young adulthood (or across the life span)?

What challenges and puzzles exist?



What is the future of educating for civic agency?