

2014

## The Incorporation of Education

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## Michael James D'Amato

planet.” You can be a voice for the voiceless, or your silence will be your consent.

\*Recommended resource: *A People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn

\*Possible activity: For a culminating activity on a unit about a major global issue, have the students participate in a Day of Silence in school to express their solidarity with those who are voiceless.

5. *Be sensitive* – Words are powerful and it is crucial to use terms that empower and never degrade. That means good-bye to “poor nations,”

“prostitutes,” “victims,” and “illegal aliens.” Instead, we make a commitment to “developing countries,” “sex workers,” “survivors,” and “people without papers.” It may sound like the simplest of all tasks, but in many ways it is the most meaningful.

\*Recommended resource: *Rethinking Schools* magazine

\*Possible activity: Create a socially conscious meme, post it on a social media website, and write a reflection on the feedback received.

**Michael James D'Amato** is the bestselling author of *The Classroom* and *Roam Italy*. His work has been highlighted in magazines, newspapers, radio, and television. His latest book is *The Dominican Experiment: A Teacher and His Students Explore a Garbage Dump, a Sweatshop, and Vodou*

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## The Incorporation of Education

Status strangling test scores plummet  
Beneath waves of mediocrity  
World-class expectations miserly financed  
Sharpened digits pointed with scattered accusation  
Insidious portrayals of blasé pedagogues  
Vernal equinox signaling mandated standardization  
Harvests of fear and insinuation  
Climates of clichéd intimidation  
Machine-tooled mayhem and monotonous misery  
Egalitarian mistrust and malice  
Division fomenting division  
Creativity crystallized  
Passion apprehended  
Insight transformed to incite  
Ink transformed to Inc.

- Joseph S. Pizzo

A veteran teacher of 39 years at the Black River Middle School in Chester, **Joe Pizzo** serves as an adjunct professor at both Centenary College and Union County College and has taught at the College of St. Elizabeth. Joe's book *New Jersey ASK 7 Language Arts Literacy Test* is going into its third printing with revisions and a name change to fit NJ PARCC. Our former NJCTE Co-Director and a staff announcer at WNTI-91.9FM, Joe is a member of the NJ Schools to Watch Core Team, NJAMLE Leadership Team, and WWOR-TV CH. 9's A+ for Teachers Hall of Fame.