

# Attendance and Achievement: **Berhane Azage**

## Lesson Title: **Our Parents and Ourselves (Part 1)**

### Grade Level: **High School**



#### Project and Purpose

Students prepare to interview their parents/guardians to better understand themselves.

#### Essential Question

How does understanding our parents' history help us to understand our own?

#### Materials

- Writing materials

#### Procedure

**Note:** This lesson spans over the course of two days. This lesson is Part 1.

1. **Activator:** Ask students to think about their parents/guardians and consider: what is the most interesting thing that they know about the adults in their lives?
2. Inform students that Berhane's mother had a hard life in Ethiopia. She was jailed and tortured during a time of political unrest. It was her dream to leave those experiences behind and come to America with her family. Knowing that coming to America is a precious gift, Berhane is committed to trying hard and doing well in school. Berhane is a great example of how the experiences of our parents and the adults in our lives can and do impact our own lives.
3. Explain to students that no matter the types of relationships we have, if we try to understand more about our parents/involved adults and their past, we may come to better understand them and ourselves.
4. In this session students will find out more about their parents or guardians by creating and conducting interviews with them.
5. In this session, students will brainstorm a list of interview questions to ask parents/guardians to better get to know their history and where they come from. Something to keep in mind is that each of us will have different questions for our parents because our families and our interests are different.
6. Students spend time independently brainstorming and writing interview questions for their parents. Each student should prepare roughly 8-10 questions. If you think your students would feel comfortable sharing their questions with peers you could ask them to share their ideas in pairs.
7. Explain to students that they are going to interview their parents/guardians before the next class. They should use a phone or some other recording device to record the interview so that they can listen to it again.

## Conclusion

Ask students to consider: what are they most excited about learning about their parents/guardians? What are they anxious about learning? Why?

## Notes

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