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Democracy and Equity in K-12 Education

Post-lecture Discussion Guide

1. What comes to mind when you think of schools in the American imagination? (For example, is there a work of non-fiction or fiction that is representative of schools for you?)
2. In addition to being supported by public funds (local, state, and national funding), what are other essential attributes of “public schools?”
3. Why did Horace Mann believe that schools should be the “great equalizer” in our democracy?
4. What dilemmas do race, ethnicity, culture, and nationalism pose for schools in becoming the great equalizer?
5. How do these dilemmas gesture from “equalizing” to equity?
6. How does fostering democratic deliberation help us to determine the forms of civic literacy that schools should impart?