



180 Days Well Spent: PAR in Action (30 minutes)

Framing: “180 Days Well Spent” is a short video, created by parents and teachers in NYC, about having the school communities our children deserve. The process of creating the video as well as the inclusive, participatory school communities it highlights are examples of PAR in action. This video can stand alone for groups more familiar with PAR or be combined with an “Overview of PAR”

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Internet access and platform for showing video clip
- Pens and Paper

Group Size: any

Activity

Opening: (5 min)

Framing: In this video “180 Days Well Spent” we consider how the school is facilitated in a way that brings out voices that were previously silenced.

Action: Facilitator B introduces the video and explains the process of how the 12 minute movie came to be (see notes below), connecting it to principles of PAR.

Main activity: (25 min)

Watch the video (12 min)

[Link to video](#)

Group Discussion (13 min)

Framing: Using the Guiding Questions below, Facilitator A guides a whole group discussion and helps to build the connection between PAR principles and what was shared in the video



Guiding Questions:

- What are your thoughts?
- What are some questions you have after watching the movie?
- How were the classrooms run? How is this similar or different to your own experiences?
- Did the way the room was designed or set up make a difference? How so?
- Did you notice teachers trying to bring out the voices of their students. If so, in what ways?
- How did teachers interact with students?

Closing: (5 min)

Action: Facilitator B asks participants to share how the video impacted their understanding of PAR and creating inclusive, participatory school communities.

Possible Questions:

- How did this video make you think about things differently?
- What new understand of PAR did you gain?
- What questions do you still have?
- How does this connect to your own experience?

Background on the video: 180 Days Well Spent

180 Days Well Spent is a short video, created by parents and teachers in NYC, about having the school communities our children deserve. Produced by the Center for Inquiry and Center for Immigrant Families/Parent Leadership Project. Featuring the Ella Baker School and Bloomingdale Family Head Start Program.

“180 Days Well Spent” began with a group of low-income mothers of NYC public school students who got together to discuss the impact of high-stakes tests on their children. Together, they began to envision what a good classroom and school would look like without high-stakes tests. They teamed up with an amazing group of educators and explored some questions:

- What is it that we WANT for our children and for our schools and communities?
- What makes a good school?
- What do our children need and deserve to ensure their right to a high-quality education?
- If we know high stakes tests don’t measure our children’s learning, what does?

The film is only 12 minutes long so we encourage groups to see the film, have a discussion together, and then watch it again with a different lens growing out of the discussion.

We hope this film will inspire discussion about how we can build the kind of school communities our children deserve.

