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Critical Incident Journal

Common Read Book Discussion

Over Family Weekend at MSU, I led a book discussion with a librarian from the University. At the discussion, Monica Antonelli and I used an icebreaker to get the four attendees more comfortable. We asked everyone what their name was, what they were studying (if applicable), and why they were at the discussion. I started by asking a question from the book discussion guide and then we went around the table listening to others opinions, answers, and how they related what they read in Will Allen’s book to what they experience or have experienced in their lives. Some people had not read the book yet and just wanted to know more about it. Others had read the book and had unique views on Will Allen’s writing.

This leadership opportunity exposed me to different perspectives. At times, it was my responsibility to keep discussion moving and at others I was able to contribute my own ideas to the discussion. The skill of promoting a positive environment to have a discussion is one that will be very useful in my classroom someday. I enjoyed the opportunity to hear the views on the book that were different from my first impressions when I read it. It taught me to keep an open mind to different ideas and opinions of others in many situations.