

The Freedom Writers Diary

1. How do the Freedom Writers evolve over the course of 4 years?
2. How are the lives of the Freedom Writers war-like? How do individual Freedom Writers win particular battles and why? Do any or all of them win the war?
3. What can the Freedom Writers teach us about working with people who are different from ourselves? How do you work with someone who is different from you?
4. Why do you think the Freedom Writers were so receptive to Gruwell? After all, they seem to have had experience with people who said they wanted to help this group of students before, so why would this one woman be any different than the ones who came before her here or who exist elsewhere? What made Gruwell effective?
5. The Freedom Writers found parallels between their lives and the literature they read for Gruwell's class. What effect did finding those parallels have on the Freedom Writers? Are there connections that you made between yourself and an aspect of the text? Why or why not?
6. Do you think writing can lead to change? Can writing really make a difference (for the individual or a larger group)? Why or how?
7. What diary entry stands out in your mind after you completed reading the book? Why?
8. The "Epilogue" includes description of some of the activities of the Freedom Writers after their graduation. Which diary entries made you curious enough to wonder what particular Freedom Writers are doing today?
9. Different types of writing (diary entries, short stories, plays, poems, newspaper headlines, letters, etc) exist in this book. What role do these written texts play for the students? Why? What particular genre of writing appeals to you? Why? Discuss how different types of writing empower or influence people.

Adapted from http://www.iun.edu/~lib/reading/freedomwriters_readingguide.shtml