

## Danger of a Single Story – Year Long Unit - Lesson Plan

Reflection by 2022-2023 Teacher Fellow Renee O'Connor

Objective: This is an ongoing project/theme in my classes where students learn to connect the MYTHS they have/had about Africa to the MYTHS that people have about our student population and our city of Miami Gardens.

Background: My high school, Miami Norland Senior High is located in Miami Gardens, Florida. Miami Gardens has a reputation of being a place where there are gangs, daily heavy police activity and murders. So much so, the city has a nickname of “Murder Gardens”. I personally have been questioned by my friends and family members as to why I work here and with “those” kids when I could work at any school in Miami. It is my goal to do my best to dispel the MYTHS and to teach my students that a place is never just one thing. Yes, there are gangs, and murders and a heavy police presence – but that is not ONLY who we are. We are much more than that, we have a high population of students with parents with college degrees, we have top scholars and athletes that graduate from our school and we have a beautiful student population that care about themselves and the world.

[Ted Talk from Chimamanda Adichie Ngozie about “The Danger of the Single Story”](#)