



AN UNSPOKEN REALITY

A Workbook For Dismantling [Student Homelessness](#)



UCLA

**Center for the Transformation
of Schools**

METHOD

A brief intro on the purpose of this workbook for teachers

This workbook guide intends to give teachers (not intended for students) the information about youth experiencing homelessness and some suggested tools that will hopefully result in in-classroom dialogue about inequity and the reality of homeless youth. Use this workbook to facilitate discussions around youth homelessness. We hope this inspires teachers and students to engage and understand this issue.

- Los Angeles Mission Arts Council

4 TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

Understanding the differences between what we “see” versus what homelessness means

Chronic Homelessness

This is the most well known type of homelessness. Chronic homelessness is defined as experiencing homelessness for longer than a year.

Episodic Homelessness

Episodic homelessness can turn in to chronic homelessness. It's defined as a person that has experienced three episodes of homelessness within a given year.

Transitional Homelessness

This is one of the more common types of homelessness. This form of homelessness is defined as affecting a person that is going through a major life change or catastrophic event. Many times when people lose their jobs suddenly and unexpectedly they can experience transitional homelessness while they look for a new job.

Hidden Homelessness

Hidden homelessness often goes unreported. These are individuals that are “couch-surfing” without immediate prospects for permanent housing. They will often rely on relatives or friends for a place to live. Since they never access homeless support resources they are never included in national statistics.

5 DISCUSSION IDEAS

Five easy ideas, questions and prompts to discuss with your class about homelessness

Discussion #1

Dispel “common myths about what it means to experience homelessness” with your students. Go over myth versus fact on common stereotypes.

Discussion #2

Utilize (on a projector, screen if available) UCLA’s [interactive map of homelessness](#) among students in California. Spend some time discovering regions and exploring communities.

Discussion #3

Present students with multiple photos of buildings, such as a hotel, the exterior of a temporary housing site, and a street homeless encampment. Present the following question as multiple choice: “Which of these photos do you believe homeless people may live in?” Tell students the answer is actually all of the above and that the majority of people experiencing homelessness do not live on the streets in tents.

Discussion #4

Read a poem about homelessness (NOTE: “[Homeless](#)” is a strong poem used in some lesson plans). Ask students to engage emotionally and write a poem putting themselves in the shoes of being homeless. Ask students to communicate their mindset on paper of how it feels.

Discussions #5

Ask students to use any of the words in the vocabulary page in a sentence, or quiz students on the vocabulary after an assignment to learn the definitions

10 LESSON CONTENT IDEAS

Ten easy ideas,
questions and
prompts to
use with your
class about
homelessness

1. 20% of California Community College students experience homelessness, is that:
A) $\frac{1}{3}$ of all CCC students **B) $\frac{1}{4}$** **C) $\frac{1}{5}$** **D) $\frac{1}{8}$**
2. Over 269,000 of California students K-12 are experiencing homelessness, that number has risen 50% in the last decade. What is 50% of 269,000?
3. Evict [i'vikt] (verb) to expel (a person, especially a tenant) from land, a building, etc., by legal process, as for nonpayment of rent. Use evict in a sentence.
4. There are 56,000 seats in Dodger Stadium and 269,000 students experiencing homelessness in California. How many times could you fill Dodger Stadium with homeless students?
5. Graduation rates are 86% for non-homeless students and 70% for students experiencing homelessness. How much lower are graduation rates for homeless students?
6. University readiness for non-homeless students is 52%. For students experiencing homelessness it's 29%. How much lower is university readiness for homeless students?
7. 12% of students not experiencing homelessness regularly miss class. 25% of students experiencing homelessness regularly miss class. How much more likely are students experiencing homelessness to regularly miss class?
8. Fill in the California counties with the highest percentage of students experiencing homelessness.
9. Foreclosure [fôr'klō zh ə r] (noun) the act of taking possession of a mortgage property or pledge. Use foreclosure in a sentence.
10. 1 in 10 students attending California State University, experience homelessness. What percentage is that?

ADDITIONAL LESSON TOOLS

Click on these links to get access to helpful tools and visualizers for explaining data to students

UCLA Center For The Transformation of Schools Study

<http://transformschools.ucla.edu/stateofcrisis>

Interactive Map of Student Homelessness in CA

<http://transformschools.ucla.edu/stateofcrisis/map/>

HUD Homelessness Resources

https://www.hud.gov/homelessness_resources

USICH Homelessness Statistics by State

<https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/map/>

CONCLUSION

Thank you for
joining us here

This collaboration between Los Angeles Mission and UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools is an extension of the central ideas we learned from the “State of Crisis: Dismantling Student Homelessness in California” report. We believe we can end homelessness if we work together to find solutions. Our chance to make a difference is stronger now more than ever. We hope this workbook will empower educators with simple thought-starters to begin crafting lesson plans in their classrooms. Please let us know if you have any questions and would like to contribute to future interactive guides for educators across the world.