

Name _____

Date _____

“Humiliation”

1. Define *humiliation* in your own words. You might need to use a dictionary as well as the definition in the article to do this.

2. Johan Galtung believes that (in Rosenberg’s words) “humiliation is a profoundly violent psychological act that leaves the victim with a deep wound to the psyche.” Please summarize Galtung’s ideas in your own words.

“Historically, maintaining hierarchical societies meant that elites scrupulously guarded their honor against attempts to soil or humiliate it, while some form of more or less institutionalized humiliation was part of the reality for the lower echelons of a community”

3. Define *hierarchical* in your own words:

4. Define *elites*:

5. Define *scrupulously*:

6. Define *institutionalized*:

7. Define *lower echelon*:

8. Rewrite the above sentence in your own words.

9. Why might the above social system be seen as a necessity?

10. In a society that is hierarchical, how might the people in the lower ranks feel about the institutionalized humiliation in their society?

11. Define *egalitarian* in your own words:

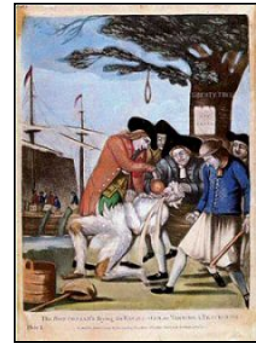
12. In societies that are based on equality, how do most people view humiliation?

13. Define *relevant* in your own words:

14. Define *subordinate* in your own words:

15. Define *deem* in your own words:

16. “When subordinate groups become aware of human rights values and adopt them into their value system, they reframe their formerly accepted subordination as humiliating circumstances that can no longer be deemed to be acceptable.” This means that the lower classes often accept the way things are, even if they have fewer rights and are treated poorly. However, when they begin to see the possibility of equality, they see that their poor treatment was a form of humiliation. What does Rosenberg think usually happens when people begin to see that their community regularly humiliates them?



17. Define *despondent* in your own words:

18. Why does Rosenberg argue that it is important to pay attention to humiliation? What example does she use?

Rosenberg suggests that humiliation, trauma, and victimhood are different. Describe an example she gives of each:

19. humiliation:

20. trauma

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| 21. victimhood |
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| 22. “Importantly, the more a victim is aware of human rights values, the more likely they are to feel humiliated.” Why do you think this is so? |
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| <i>Hitler and Mandela, two famous leaders, reacted to humiliation in very different ways.</i> |
| 23. What was Hitler’s response to the humiliating treatment of Germany after their loss in World War I? |
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| 24. What was Mandela’s response to the humiliating treatment of blacks in South Africa under the Apartheid government that made it legal to discriminate against blacks? |
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| 25. In your own words, describe the three possible reactions to humiliation suggested by the article: |
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| b. |
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| c. |
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