



## Curriculum: 16<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge (Viaduct) *Bridging the Gaps*

16<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Viaduct), also known as the James E. Groppi Unity Bridge, was built in 1894 above the Menomonee Valley.

### Bridge vs. Viaduct

**Bridge** - usually carries transportation and people across water.

**Viaduct** - usually carries transportation across a valley. Much cheaper to build than bridges, simpler design.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge (Viaduct) was nicknamed, the “Mason-Dixon Line of Milwaukee” because African Americans were not permitted to buy houses on the south side of the viaduct due to their skin color.

### Making connections with the past

Whether a bridge or a viaduct, there are opportunities to connect the gaps in our daily lives. During the Civil Rights Movement, on August 28, 1967, this modest viaduct was the setting of a historic event. The NAACP Youth Council and Fr. James Groppi marched on this viaduct to share concern and outrage over the excessive legal housing restrictions on African Americans. They marched from the north side of the viaduct at Marquette University to the predominately white, south side of Milwaukee. The marchers experienced much anger, brutality, and verbal abuse from the white south siders, yet they persisted and continued to march for 200 days until the federal Civil Rights Act of 1968.

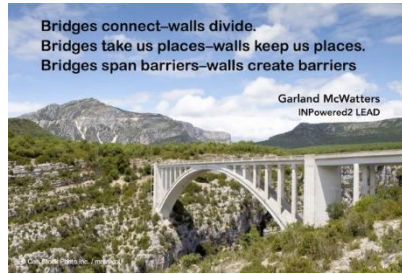


Today, Milwaukee’s African Americans are still experiencing unjust practices and our recently renewed commitment to Black Lives Matter is only a small way to rectify the decades of discrimination they’ve experienced.



Sometimes, we have a gap of understanding between not only our fellow citizens but also our family and friends. Here are a few ways to bridge those gaps and have a healthy conversation in which you can share your opinions while still respecting the other person’s views as well. We hope you share these strategies with your loved ones.



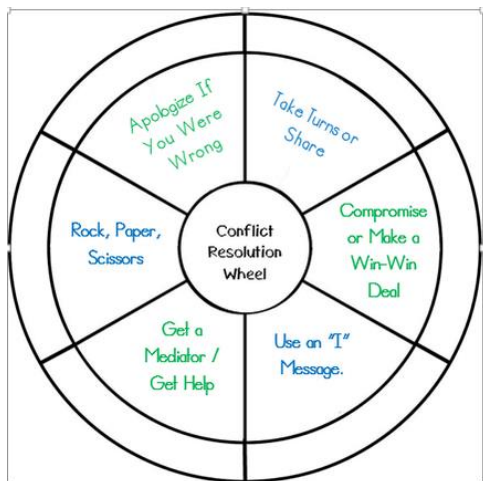


## Reconciliation

## Peace Bridge - Conflict Resolution - Bridge Strategies

Stop we have a conflict!
I want  because .
I feel  .
I heard  that you want  because .
Some ideas are   .
Agree and Shake.
I heard  that you want  because .
I feel  .
I want  because .

<b>I want . . .</b>
<b>I feel . . .</b>
<b>I hear you telling me . . .</b>
<b>Maybe we should try . . .</b>
<b>Let's choose and shake hands . . .</b>
<b>Let's choose and shake hands . . .</b>
<b>Maybe we should try . . .</b>
<b>I hear you telling me . . .</b>
<b>I feel . . .</b>
<b>I want . . .</b>
<b>PEACE BRIDGE</b>



### Step 4: Build Them a Golden Bridge

- The other side may be dissatisfied, unconvinced of the benefits of agreement
- You may feel like pushing them, but this will only make them more resistant
- Do the opposite
- Bridge the gap between their interests and yours
- Involve them in the process
- Incorporate their ideas
- Help them save face and make the outcome look like a victory for them



From the Wisconsin State Historical Society:

[https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/pdfs/lessons/civilrights/CivilRights\\_lesson4.pdf](https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/pdfs/lessons/civilrights/CivilRights_lesson4.pdf)