

▲Background of Case Study

A Time of Crisis, A Moment for Art: Sojourn Theatre and the Lima Senior High Dialogue Project is a case study published in June, 2009, by Animating Democracy, A Program of Americans for the Arts. The study describes the collaborative efforts of Lima Senior High School, Allen County Common Threads and Sojourn Theatre Company to help students process a tragic community event and its aftermath. The direct Web address is www.americansforthearts.org/animatingdemocracy/pdf/reading_room/TimeofCrisis_MomentforArts.pdf.

Lima City Schools approached Allen County Common Threads and Sojourn Theatre immediately following a community-wide, race-related crisis in January, 2008. The three partners planned and completed the Lima Senior High Dialogue project between January 21 and February 29, 2008.

Sojourn Theatre Company interviewed Lima Senior students and blended their voices into six monologues presenting the major concerns and comments they heard from the students. Students watched the monologues projected in the Lima Senior Auditorium and then broke into small groups and, working with a facilitator, engaged in dialogue on several questions based on the monologues. Students evaluated their experiences with the monologues and dialogues and their comments were captured and are included in the case study.

The case study also describes the process of developing the project completely from Sojourn's interviews and artistic work through the identification and training of facilitators to student participation and reaction. The study also describes the success factors and challenges experienced by the partners as they developed and presented the dialogue project for all 1200 students at Lima Senior High.