Connected Knowing Assignment

This assignment asks you to use Connected Knowing as a Critical Thinking method. You are asked to put yourself “in the shoes” of a person and critique a policy from that person’s point of view.

You are a student in the 6th grade in a Portland public school. The principal has just announced that starting today there is a new conflict resolution policy: Whenever 2 students have a disagreement about anything, it will be settled by having a physical fight in the gym monitored by 2 teachers. The teachers will referee the fight according to the rules of a boxing match, but there will be no boxing gloves. The student who knocks the other one out will be declared the winner of the dispute. The policy applies to disputes between all students, including all genders and all races.

Choose either position #1 or position #2 and state your reasons why you agree or disagree with this new policy. Analyze the new policy from the point of view of the student you choose and describe the thoughts and emotions of that student towards the new policy. Write your reasoning in “I statements”; i.e. “I believe this new policy is (or is not) a good one because…”

#1. You are a boy of Northern European ethnicity, physically taller and stronger than all your classmates. You have had 2 years of karate training. You have played competitive sports every year since you were 5 years old. You believe the school should not begin the new dispute resolution policy.

#2. You are a girl, the daughter of parents from Sudan. You were born in Portland, but you know your parents came to the US without legal documentation or visas. Because of your ethnic heritage you are shorter than many of your classmates, you have never been in a physical fight. Your parents have raised you to believe that girls fighting brings shame on the family. Fighting is against your parents’ religious and cultural beliefs. Your classmates often tease you and call you names because of your racial heritage and your family background. You believe the new dispute resolution policy is a good one and should be implemented.