

Citywide Youth Coalition
Political Education Department

**The Marxist Method and
Fundamentals of Logic and Rhetoric**

Cops out of School Curriculum
Seminar D2

20 May 2022
Dave John Cruz-Bustamante

Key Concepts and Takeaways

Ideas and realizations you want folks to take away

- ★ Understand how scientific marxism works as a lens for analyzing systems and coming up with solutions
- ★ Understand the classical definition of logic and rhetoric and how its used as an art form
- ★ Understand how to use scientific marxism, logic, and rhetoric in practice when talking with others, writing, reading, etc.

Introduction Circles [30]

Set the culture and environment of the room

1. Name and Pronouns
2. Go over *Black and Brown Power Center* group agreements
3. Mental Health Check-In: [What's your weather pattern?](#)
 - a. 1-2 tropical vacation weather
 - b. 3-4 sunny
 - c. 5 partially cloudy
 - d. 6 drizzle
 - e. 7-8 thunderstorm
 - f. 9-10 hurricane
4. INSERT ICEBREAKER HERE
5. Announcements
 - a. You can find in-depth information about work opportunities, protests, events, and news at on "[The Bulletin Board](#)" (or the facilitator can briefly list the events listed in the document)
 - b. **Open up the space for folks to add in their own news and announcements*

Recap of Rhetoric and Logic [25]

Find out what folks already know and build up

- Logic: “A science that deals with the rules and processes used in sound thinking and reasoning.”
- Rhetoric: “The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing. . .”
- [“How to use rhetoric to get what you want - Camille A. Langston”](#)
- Why do you think having solid logical and rhetorical skills is important for community organizing?
 - We put this in place through **testimonies, speeches, 1:1 conversations, dialogues, seminars, analytical essays, op-eds**. All of them have different purposes and different tones

The Marxist Method [45]

Scientific Marxism and Critical Analysis

- Have any of y’all heard of Karl Marx or Marxism? In what context was it said? Was it portrayed as something positive, negative, or neutral?
- **Working definitions and purposes of: *politics, economy, culture in relation to “justice” and “equality”***
- ["Was Karl Marx right? | The Economist"](#)
- “The Superstructure Theory”
 - *Ideological Superstructure: education, law, government, media, culture, and religion*
 - *Economic Base: Class systems (worker v. capitalist), commodities (products), means of production, etc.*
 - The economic base **shapes** the superstructure and the super structure **maintains** the economic base.

- Marx talks a lot about **contradictions** in how we organize labor (work) in our society and how that affects the **superstructure**
 - What are some things that affect you personally that are a part of the superstructure?
 - What are some contradictions that you notice in daily life? Start small! What does a contradiction even mean?
- Scientific Marxism is a **lens** that we use to critically analyze our society so that we can come up with proper solutions for a society free of oppression; a liberated society
 - What lens do you think the adults in your life (parents, etc.) use to observe and explain the world? How does that resonate with you?
 - What lens do you think people with **power** use to observe and explain the world? How does that affect us?

Announcement for Next Seminar [10]

Next seminar (our final seminar) we will be having a **dialogue/debate**. The question will be:

“Do cops belong in schools?”

You will have to pick a side, use what you learned about logic, rhetoric, and analysis to properly argue your points (preferably with examples if you can!) You will also be asked to answer sub questions to further elaborate your ideas:

- Why do you think what you think?
- What is the role of police in our schools?
- What problems do you think SROs cause?
- How are SROs used? (positive and/or negative)
- What are some alternatives/solutions?

If you don't feel comfortable arguing feel free to write a fake testimony or speech, create art, or argue your “case” to the facilitators personally! Just talk to us and we'll figure something out.

Rehumanizing Activity [15]

Keep folks grounded and hopeful

- Music and chill

Deltas and Pluses

Write down the deltas and pluses given for this seminar

Deltas	Pluses