

Elements of Reflection -- Walking the neighborhood of the South Side of Milwaukee

In your conversation, observation and reflection while you walk, move through the questions below to guide your reflection. Feel free to address them all, but at least focus on the bold questions for guidance.

- A. Orientation: Discover who am I? **Why am I here?** What is important to me? Where am I coming from?
- B. Observation: **What do I see and hear?** How do I describe what I see? What are the issues that I see?
Look around the neighborhood and let your observations inform you. How many storefronts are closed? What is the level of respect/repair present in the area? Who is walking the streets? What type of welcome is being advertised by either homes or storefronts? Who is not welcome here?
- C. Feelings: **How do I feel about what I see and hear?** Why do I feel this way? **What core values are in play with what I feel?**
(Emotion is linked to motivation. We act on issues we feel strongly about.)
- D. Interpretation: **Why did I see things the way I did?** How do my values and experiences (as part of a particular cultural, racial, ethnic, religious group, etc.) shape what I see and hear? What are the barriers that prevent me from seeing from a different perspective? **How does my experience play into my lens for my interpretation?**
- E. Personal Analysis: **How am I contributing to the problem? How am I contributing to the solution?** What gifts can I offer/learn? Where can I draw hope and strength? **How does my faith enlighten the situation?**
- F. Social Analysis: **What are the social and political roots of the problems observed?** What are possible solutions? Who holds the power in this situation? How can we gain power as a group to advocate for change? Examine causes, probe consequences, linkages. **What agency/institution holds the most hope for change?**
- How is Belize connected to this neighborhood and the issues they are facing?** What is similar? What is different? How is Belize affected by what you do with/for this community on the South Side? **Why do you need to go to Belize when all of this is happening in our back yard?**