**Group 2: Field Trip Instructions For Group Leader**

Overview of Route:

* First story: Location 7, Story 5, Black Lives Matter Rally in Cameron Park (Corner of 5th Ave. S. and King St.)
* Second story: Location 7, Story 3, The Ten Commandments in Cameron Park (Corner of 5th Ave. S. and King St.)
* Third story: Location 2, Story 4, Homelessness and the Cathedral (530 Main St.)
* Fourth story: Location 3, Story 4, English Language Learners in The Pearl (207 Pearl St.)

General Tips:

* **Before you start the tour, save 1-844-432-7529, the *Hear, Here* number, to your phone and the students’ phones. When you are at the signs, call the number and type in the unique location number and story number listed above and on the sign when prompted in order to hear the recording.**
* If you cannot find a sign for any reason, but know you are in the right location, call the number and enter the location and story number listed above and don’t worry about finding the sign!
* Feel free to put the recorded story on speaker to listen with your group. Remind students that they can also read along with the transcripts included in this packet.
* If many students do not have mobile devices, reading the story out loud to the group is also an option.
* Engage students in conversation about their answers to the discussion questions as you walk between signs.

Instructions:

* Your group will be beginning at **Cameron Park** where your first two Hear, Here signs are.
* Your first sign is on the **lamp post** in the middle of the park. Call the number on the sign and listen to the recording. Instruct students to answer the questions on page 4 of the packet after listening to the story.
* Walk over to the **fenced off area** in Cameron park. The *Hear, Here* sign that corresponds to the Ten Commandments monument is along the adjacent street.
* Your third sign is at **St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral**. From Cameron Park, head east on King Street past Wells Fargo Bank, and then turn left on 6th Street South. The sign for this story is at the front of the Cathedral. The questions for this sign are on page 6.
* The fourth sign, as well as your final destination, is at the **Pearl Ice Cream Parlor**. Walk towards the river on Main St, towards 4th St. Turn left on 3rd St. South and then right on Pearl Street and you will see The Pearl.

**Field Trip Questions Packet for Students**

Overview of Route:

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**Story #1: Location 7, Story 5, Black Lives Matter Rally in Cameron Park**

**Transcript**: We’re here this afternoon in Cameron Park, which is usually the setting for our community Farmers Market, but today it is something even more important and it is a rally to protest the recent killings of Black citizens in this country and to reaffirm the fact that Black lives do matter.

How this came to be, or how I came to know about this, was that a friend of mine from the LGBT community had sent me an invitation on Facebook and, being a member of another oppressed community, it was really important to me to stand with other oppressed people and show them that we’re offering the same support that they offer us. It is far too easy to sweep stuff like this under the rug when you hear things like, “All Lives Matter,” it negates the story of why Black lives need to be focused upon and that’s really what we’re doing here today. It’s very empowering to see that we covered a block and a half when we stretched out in our group, hearing the voices, leading the chants, and having the traffic go by and honk their horns at us to let them know that they stand in solidarity with us as well.

As far as what this event meant to me is seeing this community on such short notice, come together, see the number of people and the diversity here really drives home the idea that we’re not as separated as people might want us to believe. Regardless of what you hear on the news media, regardless of what our politicians say, we are able to come together and unite under a common cause. And that really sums up why it is important to talk about. Again, Black lives do matter, reaffirming that the Black community is not alone, that they shouldn’t feel that they are separate from those of us within the white community.

You know, it’s really a beautiful day, we couldn’t have asked for a better day for this, and just the sense of community here is incredible.

I’m Jessica Polacek and I’m a Director of Operations at the Center: The 7 Rivers LGBT Connection, here in La Crosse.

**Story #1 Questions**

1. Why was this rally important to Jessica Polacek, the speaker?

2. Why do you think is it important to be able to have rallies and demonstrations such as this, about any kind of issue, in public spaces such as parks? Would you ever participate in a rally or protest like this?

Bonus Question: What days of the week is the Cameron Park Farmers Market held on during the summer?

**Story #2: Location 7, Story 3, The Ten Commandments in Cameron Park**

**Transcript**: We’re standing by the Hanifl Market and the Ten Commandments monument at the corner of King and Fifth Avenue. I moved to La Crosse in 1995 and as I was exploring the city I spotted the monument and it knocked my socks off. I didn’t know what it was doing here; I didn’t know why a religious symbol was in a public park. I tended to avoid coming into this area after that. I became aware of the controversy and the attempts of people to remove this as being a religious object and when I learned that the city refused to do that it made me uncomfortable and after a few years, the controversy came up again, I wasn’t part of it originally, I might have let others take care of it, but when the judge ruled that in order to be a plaintiff the people’s names had to be attached to the lawsuit and the case was about to be dismissed, I reconsidered and thought well, I have to be brave enough and go forward and to go on record and to say that I object to this.

So, we had a meeting, it was in my living room, to discuss becoming a plaintiff in the lawsuit and before the evening was over with, we had about twenty-two people who were willing to step forward and to challenge this as a violation of church and state. It’s important, I think, to say that this was a year or two after 9/11 when, in my opinion, there was a feeling in the country that we’re all Americans, but that meant that we’re also all Christians and we’re a Christian nation, but America is a country of immigrants. People come here for religious freedom. We’ve gone too far in this country to have one way of religion be the religion that is imposed and represented by the state. My parents came here as Holocaust survivors, they came here for religious freedom, and they came here to observe as they want. That’s why it’s so important to me because this is a country that welcomes everyone and where everyone should feel part and comfortable and not feel as though there is a state-dominated, or a representation by the state that religion is a certain way.

This is not about being against the Ten Commandments; this is not about being against religion. Many of us are very religious in our own communities, but our feeling was that the Ten Commandments monument does not belong on public property. It belongs on private property, and that’s what all this is about. It was not an attempt to do away with the Ten Commandments; it was an attempt to move the monument to private property. The city council dug its heels into the ground, and it became quite an ugly controversy. Some people were told that they were communists, that they should leave the country, we were told we should shut-up or worse, we were ridiculed for fighting for constitutional rights. There were attempts to censor me and to make us uncomfortable.

I don’t think that anyone is really happy with the results. We have this ugly fence; we have signs on it. In effect, you can say we won there is a separation between church and state. I think that unfortunately, even though it was said that this monument was built for the youth who helped in the flood in the sixties, it really appears to me that this experience has been quite a terrible example to the youth of our community in how a government can evade the constitution to get to its desired result. In this case, to do whatever was necessary to leave the monument exactly where it was all along, no matter how much division it caused in the community.

I would fight this again. It doesn’t belong in a public park. If you’re carving up a piece of land to make it into a private park for a monument, you know that there’s a problem and an unhappiness in the community. So, rather than have a divisive monument here, the solution always was to move this to private property. I think that we can make this a truly inviting park instead of making it a park with fences and gates on it.

My name is Maureen Freedland. I’m a volunteer lawyer. I’m also active in several interfaith organizations here in La Crosse. I’m a member of the La Crosse County Board. I was first elected about eight years ago and I mention that because this Ten Commandments Litigation was brought as a factor up against me in my first campaign. There were some people who tried to use that as a reason why I should not be on the county board, but I won that election and I feel like my position and my willingness to fight for the constitution was recognized as important and that’s part of why I did win that election.

**Story #2 Questions**

1. What would you have done if you were the lawyer on this case? Would you have fought to move the religious monument to private property, or would you have a different solution?

Bonus Question: Who donated the Ten Commandments monument? Hint: the answer is near the monument itself.

**Story #3: Location 2, Story 4, Homelessness and the Cathedral**

**Transcript**: You know, I’m gonna tell you a bedtime story. You know I was born, well, raised up as a Catholic. I went to parochial schools, I went to private high schools – all twelve of us did, I was adopted. When I started to be aware of my surroundings, you know this is my world view of people I seen a lot of homeless people. I just told myself, you know, I’m not gonna – hell no I’m not gonna be like that! Look at that, you know – disgusting! I ain’t got no money for you. Homelessness was learned, okay? It’s not that I just one day, you know, boom, became homeless. It’s a different survival mechanisms that you must use. You know, all the way, before I even went to school; being beat as a child was a survival issue. So, that – that’s going to be with me all my life. The problem, I mean the good thing out of it is I know how to survive.

Well, you could say I chose the lifestyle, it’s not only in La Crosse I lived this lifestyle. I mean, we’re talking about almost 39 states I lived this lifestyle. The only loving part was the, the churches. So I slept pretty much in the street. I slept in laundry mats, I slept in stairwells, in the parks. I guess my major, uh, activity was panhandling. And that’s where it really, next, for the next four years I lived downtown.

The places I mostly stayed was at the Cathedral. They have a little, it was a garden back there that had like a chair and a table. And Father Gorman was the pastor; he did not mind. I told him I was Catholic from the start, and so I built up a rapport with him. So he let me sleep out there, and that was, um, Winter, Summer. You know when it got too cold I find me a stairwell. There were some people in the downtown area that would even bring me blankets, you know if they caught me, you know, sleeping on the landing.

The bad side was that I was, you know, still an outcast, you know; because you know, get a job, do this, do that. It’s like I have a college background, I have a homeless background, I have the jail background. I’ve been in their shoes, I’ve been out of their shoes.

My name is Martin Jude Peeples, I live here at 1918 Denton St. I’ve stayed here for four and a half years. My role to the community is not really much. That’s about as truthful as I can get. I don’t really have a role. Mostly I’m just undecided what’s gonna happen in my life, particularly you know, um, I am disabled. What is my sense of direction, I don’t know if I have one, you know – I used to. Pretty much that’s my story.

**Story #3 Questions**

1. What kinds of things can cause homelessness in our community? (Hint: think “big picture” here. Do we have enough affordable housing? What are some other factors that can contribute to homelessness?)

2. How can we help people experiencing homelessness in our community?

Bonus Question: What year was the original Cathedral of St. Joseph dedicated? (Hint: look at the front of the building)

**Story #4: Location 3, Story 4, English Language Learners at The Pearl**

**Transcript**: I am standing on 2nd Street South. I’m right in front of the Pearl Ice Cream Parlor right next to Grand Hotel and the art store and it’s right in front of my favorite restaurant Buzzard Billy’s. The first time I came to the Pearl it was when I was a first year student at La Crosse. I had the welcome orientation form International Student Office and we got to do all the campus tours and the La Crosse downtown tours, we got to ride the Mississippi Queen ships and stuff.

I don’t remember most of it but I remember the Pearl and how we got there, it was so remarkable and I was with my International Peer Advisor, IPA, and she told me that this is one of the best ice creams they sell in La Crosse. So we walked down here and tried to get an ice cream and it was so funny ‘cause they had all the ice cream menus up there be we couldn’t see it ‘cause all of us, it’s like the first time we came to La Crosse, and none of us are English speakers so like we were struggling.

Also Pearl Ice Cream, had two doors, like not only one, the second one sells coffee so like we got so confused of which door was the right one. And we finally figured out the Ice Cream is the first one, the pretty one. Me and my friends like we don’t know what to do with it so we just go with a basic, the vanilla boring ice cream because that’s the basic we can get so we don’t embarrass ourselves and can save face. I remember I was very confused but I felt very cozy because this is a small place that we could bond together in. It was a unique experience and then the ice cream was *good*.

Actually this semester I got a chance to be an IPA, an international peer advisor, and I took them to the Pearl for the first time. We came in and then got the ice cream before we went on the Mississippi Queens and then we rode the Mississippi Queen and coming back to campus by foot or by bus, it depends on what they want, but normally we stop at it again because people love it so we normally visit twice during orientation week.

And all the Japanese students we like “Oh, this is the Pearl Ice Cream that Obama went to in 2008” and I’m like “Yes, that is correct.” The Pearl, it was I think since Obama went and, since you know La Crosse is considered a small city and they got surprised that Obama actually went because you know he’s one of the, you know like really big, popular celebrities in the United States and everyone knows. And they were like pleased that they can actually have an indirect experience of what he did here. So they actually put more meaning towards, to the “Yeah, I did something that a famous person did” than “Oh, yeah because of politics” you know?

My name is Rina Jeong and I am an international student. I am from South Korea it’s also known as the Republic of Korea. And I am a UW-L student who is seeking a Psychology major and teaching English as a second language minor.

**Story #4 Questions**

1. What kind of challenges did Rina experience as an international student from South Korea?

2. What other kind of challenges do people face in La Crosse when English is not their first language? How can we help them overcome these challenges?

Bonus Question: Which president visited The Pearl?