



Not in *OUR* DC!

Pledge to Keep the Capital Clean

Discussion/Self-Reflection Questions

Vignette VI — Trash Begets Trash

1. Describe the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) "Helping Hand" program. What does DPW bring to communities as part of the program? Why do you think it is called "Helping Hand?"
2. What is the history of the Mt. Vernon Square's Cleanup Rally? What was it like years ago? What is it like now? Why do you think people enjoy it so much?
3. What does the documentary title "Trash Begets Trash" mean to you? What is the example given in the documentary of how trash begets trash? How is the opposite of that true?
4. William O. Howland, Jr., the director of the DC Department of Public Works, says, "...it's sort of a self-fulfilling prophecy that if you have a clean neighborhood there is not as much trash as likely to get there." What does self-fulfilling prophecy mean? What does it mean in Mr. Howland's statement? Do you agree or disagree?
5. What do you think would happen if you started a Helping Hand Cleanup in your neighborhood or in your school? Do you think it would become a "self-fulfilling prophecy"? Why or why not? What would it take to become a self-fulfilling prophecy?