"The People Did Not Stop."

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“The people did not stop.”

How does community change happen?
In order to break the ice, each person was urged to share a story of a pivotal moment, big or small, when they took a stand. We observed and listened as each speaker courageously invited strangers into their personal world, vividly illustrating past events of struggle, hardship, and triumph. As the class listened, we saw students and educators deeply engage and bond with each other through a shared humanity.

In hindsight, Nijmeh recalls how this event taught her that simply reading books about political reform was not enough to elicit tangible change in the world. Change lies in acting and in choice—the choice to do what is right. Nijmeh’s story shows that the catalyst for change lies within each one of us.

Nijmeh tells how she found the courage to stand up for what is right, even when it meant putting her own safety on the line. To view Nijmeh telling her story, “The People Did Not Stop,” visit http://wrt-intertext.syr.edu.

—Taylor Baker and Samantha Mangovski