

***The Life of Washington* Mural Discussion Guide**

After you read Jill Tucker's article, answer the following questions and then discuss your answers with your partner and the class.

1. Why do you think artist Victor Arnautoff painted the *Life of Washington* mural, including the images of slavery and the conquest of Native Americans?

2. Do you agree or disagree with the preservationists, who argue the images of slavery and the conquest of Native American tribes depicts a truth about our nation that should be shown to high school students?

3. Do you agree or disagree with the critics who say that the images in this mural are too painful and traumatize students who have to view them everyday at school?

4. Do you agree or disagree with Danny Glover and other preservationists who argue that “art should make people feel uncomfortable” and taking down the mural would be censorship?

5. Do you agree or disagree with critics of the mural who feel that the *Life of Washington* mural only portrays African Americans and Native Americans as victims, and ignores their resistance to oppression and their contributions to US society?

6. If you were a student at Washington High School, would you want the mural covered, painted over, or preserved?