Issues of social justice and power are slowly making their way in the K-12 curriculum. This presentation will address some of the following questions: What are pre-service K-12 mathematics teachers’ perceptions of social justice? What is teaching for social justice? How do you teach someone to teach for social justice without compromising the rigorous study of mathematics? The presenter will share insights gained from teaching a mathematics education course to K-12 teachers in which the students used literature and real-life data to develop lessons and units on their chosen mathematics content and issues of social justice. The emphasis of the assignments was on the promotion of problem solving and the effective and persuasive communication of mathematical ideas. Lastly, the presenter will share ideas for making mathematics more relevant and meaningful to students and teachers via the use of real-life data. (Received September 22, 2010)