



Calling All Colors 2018-19 (Middle School Lesson #3)

Understanding How Racism Started: Race is a social construct, not a biological one

Calling All Colors Charge: After the CAC Fall Conference, student groups will meet back at their schools and participate in rare, open, honest discussions about race issues within the school context.

Lesson Goal: To acquire factual knowledge on reasons why race is not biological.

Background: Race is not biological or genetic. It is a social construct. Racism therefore was constructed and has been upheld through some of the most influential systems of advantage in the United States. Lesson 3 will help to give you a historical context of how racism has been used to ensure advantage for some and oppression for others through the delivery of power in politics and economics. Having this knowledge will help with the understanding of how deep-rooted racism is as you think of strategies to improve race relations in your school and beyond.

Supplies:

- Laptop/computer for PowerPoint icebreaker and lesson video
- Enough copies of the lesson notes handout for each student and a facilitator guide for each facilitator
- Large butcher block paper from lesson 1-2 to record project ideas during this lesson's conclusion

Agenda: Activity Length 30-40 minutes

- This activity and subsequent activities may be best facilitated by pairing students each time with a partner they have not worked with yet. This design will allow students to develop deeper relationships with their peers across differences and learn from different perspectives each time.
- Pass out handout
- Utilize the Lesson 3 PowerPoint ice breaker slides. Allow up to 1 minute for students to respond to the question on the slide.
- Read the activity title and lesson goal(s)
- Read the important term for this lesson.
 - **Systematic Racism:** "how racism shows up in our lives across institutions and society: wealth gap, employment, housing discrimination, government surveillance, incarceration, drug arrests, immigration arrests and infant mortality." (Source: RaceForward)
- **What do you think this means? (Allow for 2-3 responses)**
- With this term in mind we will watch a brief video then have some discussion.
- Watch Supplemental Video "A Brief History of Privilege, Racism, and Oppression in America"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFjKQVZLk1g>

Facilitator Questions:

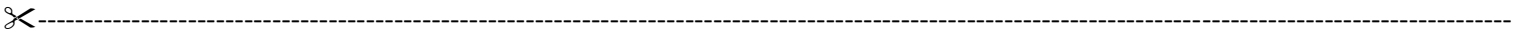
- After the video, allow the pairs to reflect on each question for two minutes.
 - How did the video make you feel?
 - Did you learn anything new from the video?
 - How can we as a CAC group make sure everyone is treated fairly at our school?
- Bring the group back together.
- Spend one minute per question allowing 1-2 responses from various groups based on their pair discussions.
- Lastly, record strategies from the last question on the large butcher block paper that you saved from lesson 1-2.
 - **Middle School Bonus Challenge Question:** What can our local and national leaders do to reduce the effects of the systems of advantage and disadvantage in our society?



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Important Term & Ice Breaker Questions: (Notes)

Video Questions: (Notes)



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