

Discussing Race, Racism, and Current Events with Students and Staff
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Link to the guide: <https://www.pbis.org/resource/discussing-race-racism-and-important-current-events-with-students-a-guide-with-lesson-plans-and-resources>

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- A. Describe the importance of discussing race and racism
- B. Use practical strategies for increasing confidence in staff to engage in discussions
- C. Adapt lesson planning materials for use in your organizations

Ground Rules

- Ask questions throughout
- Speak your truth
- Make no assumptions but good intentions
- Get comfortable with discomfort

Breakout Discussion #1

- *Why do you think most educators avoid discussing race and racism in the classroom?*

Breakout Discussion #2

- *Think back to a situation when you were unfairly stereotyped.*
- *What was the situation?*
- *How did you feel?*
- *How hard was it to think of one, and what does that mean?*

Resources for Building Knowledge

- Center on PBIS equity page: <https://pbis.org/topics/equity>
- Great Lakes Equity Center: <https://greatlakesequity.org/>
- Learning for Justice: <https://learningforjustice.org>
- Racial Equity Tools: <https://www.racialequitytools.org/>

Breakout Discussion #3

- What harmful comments might you expect to arise?
 - “I don’t understand Black Lives Matter. I think that it should be All Lives Matter. Why is that racist?”
- What might be your first reaction?
- What could be a planned response?

Resources for Conversations

- Speak Up at School: https://www.learningforjustice.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/TT-Speak-Up-Guide_0.pdf
- Let’s Talk Guide: <https://www.learningforjustice.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/TT-Let-s-Talk-Publication-January-2020.pdf>