

Writing Out Racism

a unit for NHS Creative Writing at Night, co-taught by Jamele Adams and Deborah Szabo

Topics for discussion with essential questions and follow-up reading, viewing, & listening assignments:

1. Methodology for talking about race
 - What rules should we put in place to facilitate a safe, meaningful discussion about race?
 - What gets in the way of talking about race? What do we have to overcome?
 - Viewing: Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSsoVjTgYJ0>
2. Foundations for talking about race
 - When did you have your first awareness of race? How did it feel?
 - What is intrinsic racism?
 - Reading: Higgins, "To White People Who Want to Be 'One of the Good Ones'," *NY Times*, June 1, 2020
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/19/opinion/sunday/antiracism-white-people.html>
 - Viewing: PBS, *Tell Me More*, interview with Bryan Stevenson, October 5, 2020
<https://www.pbs.org/video/bryan-stevenson-acdjum/>
3. Race and me – introspective journey into our own relationship to race
 - What examples of racism have we witnessed? How have we responded?
 - How do our families inform our attitudes toward race?
 - Reading/viewing: The 21-Day Challenge
<https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge>
4. Race, my community, and antiracism
 - What is antiracism?
 - What would BIPOC gain in an anti-racist society?
 - What might white people lose in an anti-racist society? What might white people gain in an anti-racist society?
 - Reading/listening: Interview with David Wright Falade, "The Sand Banks, 1861"
<https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/this-black-professor-says-its-every-americans-job-to-fix-systemic-racism/>
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/08/31/the-sand-banks-1861>
5. Race right now and dismantling systemic racism – Guest author: David Wright Falade
 - What is systemic racism? How can we respond to it?
 - What ideas do we have for final projects to demonstrate what we've learned/are still learning about antiracism?
 - Reading: Stories from *Black Enough*,
6. Social Justice
 - What do we mean by social justice?
 - How does and/or doesn't the Constitution support it?
 - How would America benefit from an anti-racist society?
 - Reading: Irving, "From Bystander to Ally" from *Waking Up White*
7. Remaining Anti-racist & Final Projects
 - How have your attitudes/beliefs/ understandings/awareness about race changed as a result of this unit?
 - What are you willing to commit to doing in order to continue your own journey to become an anti-racist?