

Friday-Black Women and Unapologetically Black

Content/Goal

Students will:

- ★ Understand that some people think that women are less important than men.
- ★ Understand that all people are important and have the right to be safe and talk about their own feelings.
- ★ Understand that there are lots of different kinds of people and one way that we're different is the color of our skin.
- ★ Understand the importance of treating people humanely is why we, and lots of other people all over the country and the world, are part of the *Black Lives Matter Movement*.

3A.2a. Demonstrate the ability to respect the rights of self and others.

Materials

BLM KWL Chart

[Lyrics to Brown Skin Girl By: Beyoncé](#)

Highlighter

[Homework Handout](#)

[Slides](#)

Vocabulary

assimilation

freedom

Intersectionality

Internalized oppression

Patriarchy

melanin

(*feel free to use the terms sexism, feminism/ womanism, and misogyny)

Learning Plan

Think Pair Share

How do you know that you matter as a person?

What are the things that people say or do that let you know that you matter?

What do you think it is like for people who receive the opposite message?

Today we are going to learn that Black people have been treated inhumanely and are afraid to be their true self. We are also going to learn that because of the intersectionality of Black women, they are often targets of a combined oppression.

Today's guiding principles are *Unapologetically Black* and *Black women*.

When you hear the word *unapologetically*, what does that make you think of? Why might some Black people either feel that they *have to apologize* or declare that they *won't apologize* for being Black? Because of the overt and subliminal messages about Black people being bad, ugly, and inferior to White people, Black people feel pressure to **assimilate**, or throw away their culture in order to become more like White people in the hopes to be more accepted by society. Because these messages happen so often and have for so long, some Black people have even started to believe this about themselves and other Black people. This is called internalized oppression. The guiding principle *Unapologetically Black* encourages the freedom of Black people to be their true self without fear of being looked at as bad, ugly and inferior in hopes that everyone can also have that same freedom.

Similarly, we live in a society that is patriarchal, that means our systems and government are controlled by men. In the same way that the systems and the government are controlled by White people and racism being a result of it, so is it with men controlling systems and government and messages about women being dumb, weak, and inferior being a result. Because Black women cannot separate being Black from being a woman or their intersectionality, they experience something like a double oppression. The guiding principle of *Black Women* encourages the building of women-centered spaces where women, especially Black women, can have freedom from messages that they are dumb, weak, and inferior.

In this activity, you can work individually or with a partner, we are going to analyze and discuss the lyrics to the song Brown Skin Girl by Beyoncé. Just like when trying to understand a poet's message, we have to consider figurative language that a lyricist/ songwriter uses and what they are trying to say. Feel

free to highlight, underline, or make note of lines that stand out to you, wonder about, or make a connection with and why. In a few minutes, we will discuss what you find.

Next, let's get background information into why Beyonce felt this song was important to write.

[Interview With Beyonce](#)

Discussion/ Reflection Question(s)

Have students reconvene and discuss*:

- Why would/ might someone find it important to write a song with lyrics such as these?
- How do you think the lyrics, "*Your skin is not only dark, it shines and it tells your story--Keep dancin', they can't control you*" ties into what you already understand about being Unapologetically Black, being a woman, or the **intersectionality** of being a Black woman?
- Which lyrics that stood out to you?
- Were there any lyrics that you were able to connect with?
- Were there any lyrics you needed more help unpacking or you weren't able to connect with?

Closing (Can be done as a journaling activity)

As we wrap up, think of a word or phrase that sums up what's on your mind or in your heart after today's lesson. Don't forget to share with your family or adult at home what we talked about today.

*Pay attention to students who disengage and consider the reasons. For Black children, especially those who identify as girls, this can be triggering. This can also be a trigger for students who are used to being the centered voice and will disengage believing this does not apply to them.