

## **Mini-Lesson: Introduction to the Principles of the Black Lives Matter Movement**

### **Learning Targets:**

- I can explain the 13 core principles of the Black Lives Matter movement
- I can begin to analyze the importance/significance of the 13 core principles to our local community, the United States, and the world.

### **Lesson Overview/Agenda:**

- Lesson Overview
  - The purpose of this lesson is to provide students with a cursory overview of the principles of the Black Lives Matter Movement
  - The lesson is intended for teachers who do not have significant instructional time to devote to the Week of Action, but would like to participate with a small amount of time by introducing the core principles of the movement to their students.
- Lesson Agenda:
  - Warm-Up (5 minutes)
    - Think-Pair-Share
  - Jig-Saw Activity (5 minutes): Divide students into at least six groups. Assign each group one of the thirteen guiding principles.
  - Share out and debrief of the core principles (5 minutes)
  - Exit Ticket

### **Lesson Materials:**

- Warm-Up Questions and Exit Ticket Questions
- 13 Principles Overview
- Small Group Discussion Handouts (provided below - one per small group)

**Time Allotted:** 15 Minutes

### **Warm-Up Questions:**

- What do you know about the Black Lives Matter movement?
- Why do you think the Black Lives Matter movement began?
- What do you think are the core principles and values of the Black Lives Matter movement?
- What is a social movement?

### **Exit Ticket Questions:**

- After today's introductory lesson, what do you know are some of the core principles and values of the Black Lives Matter movement?
- What questions do you have about the movement?
- What are some ways that you know you can get involved in the movement or in other related causes?

## **Black Lives Matter Warm-Up Questions**

1. What do you know about the Black Lives Matter movement?
2. Why do you think the Black Lives Matter movement began?
3. What do you think are the core principles and values of the Black Lives Matter movement?
4. What is a social movement? (What are some of the goals it aims to achieve?)

## **13 Principles of the Black Lives Matter Movement**

1. **Restorative Justice:** We are committed to collectively, lovingly and courageously working vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension all people. As we forge our path, we intentionally build and nurture a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.
2. **Empathy:** We are committed to practicing empathy; we engage comrades with the intent to learn about and connect with their contexts.
3. **Loving Engagement:** We are committed to embodying and practicing justice, liberation, and peace in our engagements with one another.
4. **Diversity:** We are committed to acknowledging, respecting and celebrating difference(s) and commonalities.
5. **Globalism:** We see ourselves as part of the global Black family and we are aware of the different ways we are impacted or privileged as Black folk who exist in different parts of the world.
6. **Queer Affirming:** We are committed to fostering a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking or, rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual unless s/he or they disclose otherwise.
7. **Trans Affirming:** We are committed to embracing and making space for trans brothers and sisters to participate and lead. We are committed to being self-reflexive and doing the work required to dismantle cis-gender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.
8. **Collective Value:** We are guided by the fact all Black lives, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status or location
9. **Intergenerational:** We are committed to fostering an intergenerational and communal network free from ageism. We believe that all people, regardless of age, show up with capacity to lead and learn.
10. **Black Families:** We are committed to making our spaces family-friendly and enable parents to fully participate with their children. We are committed to dismantling the patriarchal practice that requires mothers to work “double shifts” that require them to mother in private even as they participate in justice work.
11. **Black Villages:** We are committed to disrupting the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and “villages” that collectively care for one another, and especially “our” children to the degree that mothers, parents and children are comfortable.
12. **Unapologetically Black:** We are unapologetically Black in our positioning. In affirming that Black Lives Matter, we need not qualify our position. To love and desire freedom and justice for ourselves is a necessary prerequisite for wanting the same for others.

13. Black Women: We are committed to building a Black women affirming space free from sexism, misogyny, and male-centeredness.

**Directions: Small Group Discussion**

1. Read the following principles independently and then answer the questions below.
2. Take turns sharing your answers with your small group
3. Nominate 1 person to report out to the entire class after you're done sharing your answers with your group

Restorative Justice: We are committed to collectively, lovingly and courageously working vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension all people. As we forge our path, we intentionally build and nurture a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.

Empathy: We are committed to practicing empathy; we engage comrades with the intent to learn about and connect with their contexts.

Write what the principle means in your own words.	Why do you think that principle is one of the core principles of the Black Lives Matter Movement? (Why is that principle significant to individuals, our country, and/or the world?)

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