



4.4 What Difference Does Race Make? Circle

Suggested Grade Level: 6-12

Time: 45 minutes- 60 minutes

Subject Area: Race, Intersectionality, Respect Across Difference

Overview:

This circle provides a means to explore the meaning of race among those in GSA. The dialog can help introduce new possibilities in understanding the meaning of race.

This activity is adapted from the book “Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community” Full citation is listed below.

Goals:

- Learn about how GSA participants view race
- Learn the value GSA participants place on race
- Develop ways to continue learning about race

Materials:

- Talking piece, video “Decoded: Why Color Blindness Will Not End Racism” (<https://www.tinyurl.com/GSAColorBlindness>)

Suggested Follow-up Lessons:

- 1.3 Intersectional Identities Activity
- 4.3 What Do We Know About Race? Circle Discussion
- 4.5 Exploring White Privilege Circle Discussion

Procedure:

Step One:

Organize the room into a circle, placing the talking piece in the center

Step Two:

Welcome people to GSA and let them know that we will be engaging in a circle conversation looking at how race impacts our lives today.

Step Three:

Introduce Rounds – A round is a pass of the talking piece around the circle. The keeper poses a question and, as a participant, usually answers first. The keeper then passes the talking piece to the person to his/her left or right. On the first round, participants are invited to say their name and pronoun as well as respond to the question. Remember it is ok for a participant to pass.

Values Round – Name a value that helps you participate in a good way when you are discussing a topic. Write the values as participants name them and place them in the circle.

Check-In Round *How are you doing today? What is something positive that has happened to you in the last 24 hours?*

Round *Please share an experience where you noticed someone was treated differently (positively or negatively) based on their gender identity or sexual orientation.*

Topic Introduction *We are going to talk today about the role of race in our society – the ways that race leaves people out of offers them opportunities. This may be an emotionally difficult conversation. Despite that challenge, we think it is very important to acknowledge the reality of race in our lives. Be sure to be respectful of participants in the circle and remember that it is always ok to pass.*

Watch the video *Decoded: Why Color Blindness Will Not End Racism*”
(<https://www.tinyurl.com/GSAColorblindness>)

Round *Where does race make a difference in society?*

Round *Where else does race make a difference in society?*

Round *How much do you have to think about the differences that race makes in your daily life?*

Round *How do you cope with the realities that race creates for you or for others you care about?*

Round Do you have any additional thoughts about this piece or the topic?

Check Out Round What can you take away from this circle today?

Closing Invite everyone to stand and shake their bodies out. Thank them all for participating. Share a final closing thought as they go about their day.

Lesson Adapted from:

Boyes-Watson, Carolyn & Pranis, Kay. *Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community*.
Living Justice Press, 2015. P. 182