



TALKING ABOUT RACE

Using Video to Discuss Race and Privilege

(Grades 6-12)

Sometimes videos make concepts easier to understand. Use any of the videos below to introduce a concept or support your already existing conversations. Each video has discussion questions that can be used to help guide the conversation.

Sometimes You're A Caterpillar (3:18 minutes)

A short animated film to help understand privilege. Watch the video by clicking [here](#).

Discussion Questions

1. What is privilege? Privileges are unearned advantages or benefits that people have that make their lives easier. One advantage some people experience is that they have food in their home and don't need to worry about where their next meal will come from. Another unearned advantage might be that your school is closed on the holidays you celebrate. Everyone in our culture has unearned advantages, or privileges. What are some of your privileges and how do you benefit from them?
2. What were some privileges that the caterpillar had and how did she benefit from them?
3. Which groups of people in our culture have unearned advantages, or privileges? How might they benefit from these privileges? How can they use their unearned advantages to help others who do not have the same privileges?
4. What disadvantage did the snail have? How did the snail feel about her situation?
5. Which groups of people in our culture have disadvantages? Why are they disadvantaged?

Students Learn A Powerful Lesson About Privilege (1:45 minutes)

An experiment a teacher did with his class to illustrate privilege. Watch the video by clicking [here](#).

Discussion Questions

1. What could the people in the back rows do to make the situation more equal? What could people in the front row do to level the playing field?
2. How do people in our culture try to level the playing field? Give some examples in history where equitable ideas have been implemented to help create outcomes that are equal.
3. What is privilege? Privileges are unearned advantages or benefits that people have that make their lives easier. One advantage some people experience is that they have food in their home and don't need to worry about where their next meal will come from. Another unearned advantage might be that your school is closed on the holidays you celebrate. Everyone in our culture has unearned advantages, or privileges. What are some of your privileges and how do you benefit from them?

Cracking the Codes: Joy DeGruy, A Trip to the Grocery Store

(3:56 minutes)

The story of a white woman and a black woman at the grocery store getting treated unequally. The video highlights how people with privilege can be allies. Watch the video by clicking [here](#).

Discussion Questions

1. What did Joy experience that felt unequal compared to Kathleen's experience? Without knowing what was in the cashier's mind, what could you imagine the cashier might have been thinking? Why do you think she was thinking those thoughts?
2. Joy's 10-year old daughter was very upset by the experience in the grocery store. What do you imagine she was feeling? Why do you think her reaction was so emotional?
3. Joy mentions that she would "become the angry black woman" if she got upset at the cashier. What does this statement mean? Do you think Joy had a right to become "the angry black woman?"
4. How was Kathleen an ally to Joy? How can you be an ally in your life?

What kind of Asian are you? (2:19 minutes)

This video pokes fun at the stereotyping questions many people of color receive as a result of their appearance. Watch the video by clicking [here](#).

Discussion Questions

1. The Korean woman preparing for a jog is asked where she is from. She is from San Diego so she answers as such. If the man wanted to know her ethnicity or her ancestry, what could he have asked her instead?
2. The woman was either annoyed or offended when the man made references to Korean culture using food and language. Why might she have been annoyed or offended? Why did she or didn't she have the right to be annoyed or offended?
3. The man became offended when she referenced his ethnicity and ancestry with food and language. What was the message she was trying to send by using a British accent and referencing British history and food?

What can you do as a schoolwide initiative?

Not In Our Town. This is a movement to stop hate and bullying and create an inclusive community. Find out more by clicking [here](#).

No Place For Hate. Become a No Place For Hate school. See the website for the steps needed to become a No Place For Hate school by clicking [here](#).

