

My Racial Autobiography - Exploring Ourselves Together



by

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RACIAL EQUITY IN SCHOOLS ACTIVITY

MY RACIAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY: EXPLORING OURSELVES TOGETHER

Description: In this collaborative learning activity, students will develop empathy and a historical and social context for issues of race and equity. Robert Halkitis encourages teachers to infuse their classrooms with a variety of inclusive materials for older students, many of which can be found on The AdoptAClassroom.org Marketplace! This activity is a great way to open up discussions and use of inclusive curricular materials.

Grade Level: High School (Grades 9-12)

Target Subject: Reading, Social Studies, Special Education

Topic(s): Close Reading

Intended Student Learning Outcome(s)/Objective(s)/Skill(s):

These intended student learning outcomes, objectives, and skills are not exhaustive, and may need to be adapted to suit the specific needs of your classroom and students. However, they provide a starting point for developing a comprehensive approach to teaching racial equity in the classroom.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will understand the historical and systemic factors that contribute to racial inequality and injustice.
- Students will be able to identify and analyze their own biases and assumptions related to race and ethnicity.
- Students will develop empathy and understanding for the experiences and perspectives of people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- Students will be able to communicate effectively about issues related to race and equity.

Objectives:

- To provide students with a historical and social context for understanding issues of race and equity.
- To facilitate discussions and activities that promote self-reflection and analysis of personal biases and assumptions.
- To engage students in activities that promote empathy and understanding for the experiences of people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- To help students develop the skills to communicate effectively about issues related to race and equity.

Skills:

- Facilitation skills, such as the ability to lead and manage classroom discussions and activities that promote learning and reflection.
- Cultural competence, including an understanding of different cultural norms and values, and the ability to communicate and interact effectively with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Critical thinking and analysis skills, including the ability to analyze and interpret information related to race and equity.
- Effective communication skills, including the ability to communicate clearly and effectively about issues related to race and equity.

Materials Used from the AdoptAClassroom.org Marketplace* and other materials/resources:

For this Activity:

- [My Racial Autobiography](#) (other versions available online)
- Large paper and markers

Other resources available on the marketplace:

- Classroom posters that promote diversity and inclusion, such as ""All Are Welcome Here"" or ""Different Cultures, One Community.""
- Art supplies that allow students to create art and visual representations of issues related to race and equity, such as multicultural crayons or markers, or paper and paint to create a mural.
- Books that focus on diversity and social justice, such as ""The Hate U Give"" by Angie Thomas

Other recommendations to create an inclusive classroom

- Books that focus on diversity and social justice, such as ""The Hate U Give"" by Angie Thomas, ""Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You"" by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds, or ""The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America"" by Richard Rothstein.
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- Games and activities that promote empathy and understanding, such as "Perspective Cards" or "Social Justice Trivia Game."
- Classroom technology tools such as projectors, smart boards, or tablets that can be used to display videos or interactive content related to issues of race and equity.

These are just a few examples of the many materials and resources available through AdoptAClassroom.org's Marketplace that can support teaching racial equity in the classroom.

Directions

Objective:

- Students will explore their own identity and biases related to race and ethnicity, and develop empathy and understanding for the experiences and perspectives of people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Procedure:

- Introduction: Start by asking students what they know about the concept of race, and how it has affected them or their community. Discuss the importance of understanding and embracing differences, and the impact of biases and discrimination.
- Activity: Hand out the "My Racial Autobiography" worksheet, and give students time to fill it out. The worksheet asks questions about their personal experiences and identity related to race and ethnicity, such as their racial/ethnic background, their experiences with racism or discrimination, and how their race/ethnicity has impacted their life. Emphasize that there are no right or wrong answers, and encourage students to be honest and reflective.
- Small group discussion: Divide students into small groups of 3-4, and have them share their responses to the worksheet. Encourage students to actively listen and ask questions of their peers, and to respect each other's experiences and perspectives.

- **Whole-class discussion:** Bring the class back together, and lead a discussion about the similarities and differences in students' experiences and identities related to race and ethnicity. Highlight the importance of recognizing and respecting differences, and discuss how biases and stereotypes can contribute to inequality and discrimination.
- **Large group activity:** Provide each group with large paper and markers, and have them create a visual representation of their group's collective identity and experiences related to race and ethnicity. Encourage creativity and collaboration, and allow time for each group to share their creation with the class.
- **Reflection:** End the lesson by asking students to reflect on what they learned, and how they can apply this knowledge to their own lives and interactions with others. Encourage students to continue exploring issues of race and equity, and to challenge themselves to become advocates for racial justice.
- **Assessment:** Assessment for this lesson could include observation of student participation and engagement in the small group and large group activities, as well as a reflection writing assignment where students describe their personal learning and growth related to the topic of racial equity.

Note:

- This lesson plan can be modified and adapted to meet the specific needs and grade level of your students. It is important to keep in mind the cultural context of your classroom and the diverse backgrounds of your students to ensure that the lesson is culturally responsive and inclusive.

**Find more teacher
resources and funding
for your classroom at
AdoptAClassroom.org.**