



Resources for Talking with Students about Race, Racism, and Social Justice

Class Meetings that Matter

The OBPP philosophy is one of ensuring basic human rights for all students. The concepts of empathy, tolerance, respecting differences, and promoting acceptance are taught through age appropriate discussions and activities during class meetings. See the section titled *Respecting Differences and Promoting Acceptance of Others* in each *Class Meetings that Matter* book for principles to keep in mind as you teach about acceptance and tolerance. Specific class meetings to consider:

Class Meetings that Matter Grades K-5:

- Cultural Expedition (Category 6, Meeting 1)
- Don't Judge a Book by its Cover (Category 6, Meeting 2)
- The Trouble with Privilege (Category 6, Meeting 3)

Class Meetings that Matter Grades 6-8:

- Common Ground (Category 6, Meeting 1)
- Understanding Stereotype, Prejudice, and Discrimination (Category 6, Meeting 2)
- Naming Prejudice (Category 6, Meeting 3)

Class Meetings that Matter Grades 9-12:

- Respecting Differences and Eliminating Stereotypes (Category 5, Meeting 3)
- I Would Assume That ... (Category 5, Meeting 4)

Other Class Meeting Resources

Please note that that all materials may be not appropriate for all age children. As with all supplemental class meeting resources, OBPP recommends that all materials and literature be reviewed prior to use to ensure they are developmentally and age appropriate.

[Teaching Tolerance](#) *Talking about Race and Racism* resources provide lesson plans to help educators navigate talking about race and racism with high school students. Advanced preparation is recommended for effective instruction.

A free [Include Someone: Make a Difference kit](#) for up to 50 elementary aged students includes a guide, poster, flyers, stickers, and cards to help educators bring inclusion into the classroom.

[Do Something lesson plans](#) guide students in demonstrating their anti-bias awareness and civic competency.

[ADL lesson plans](#) promote critical thinking around historical and current events through the lens of diversity, bias, and social justice. K-12 lessons can be filtered by topic and grade level.

[GLSEN lesson plans](#) help students develop skills to interact in a diverse world with respect, empathy, and understanding.

[First Encounters with Race and Racism: Teaching Ideas for Classroom Conversations](#) provides a lesson plan about racial identity and implicit bias featuring the video *Peanut Butter, Jelly and Racism*.

[Six Classroom Activities to Spark Discussion of Racism and Privilege](#) provides six ways to help student talks about race, privilege, and oppression.

[RacismNoWay](#) website offers resources including lessons and activities. The website is designed for Australian schools so some may need to be revised for use in U.S. schools.

Using Literature

Books are a way to introduce different ideas and begin conversations with young people.

It is important for children can see themselves and their classmates reflected in the books they read. A [Looking at Race and Racial Identity in Children’s Books](#) lesson encourages students to talk about racial identity and how it is portrayed in children’s literature.

[ADL Books Matter](#): Children’s Literature Collection lists books that address issues of identity, bias and bullying. Books come with discussion guides for teachers and parents.

[New York Times list of children’s books](#) to foster conversations starting from preschool through middle school.

[21 Kids’ Books About Racism](#) lists age level and books that educate children about racism and social justice.

[Diverse Book Finder](#) website is a research collection of trade picture books that feature Black and Indigenous people and People of Color (BIPOC) human characters in fiction and narrative non-fiction.

Note: Inclusion of a title in this collection DOES NOT EQUAL a recommendation. Please review literature before use with students.

[OBPP Companion Bibliography for Grades K-12](#) is grouped by grade and includes thematic codes:

- Respecting Differences (tolerance, respect, freedom of speech, civil and human rights, dignity, perspective-taking)
- Biases and Stereotypes (social norms, stereotypes, prejudice, injustice, intolerance, hate, power and privilege)
- Gender Issues (gender stereotypes, sexual harassment, homophobia, gender violence, relational aggression)
- Serving the Community (social activism, community outreach)

[Using Literature to Promote Cultural Competence: A Bullying Prevention Bibliography for Grades K-12](#) offers resources about broader social issues often related to bullying. Literature focused on bullying from a human rights perspective and social issues related to building students’ cultural competence are provided.

Resources to help adults talk with students about race, racism, and social justice

[Let’s Talk](#) is a Teaching Tolerance Guide for facilitating critical conversations with students. The guide offers classroom-ready strategies you can use to plan discussions and to facilitate these conversations with your students.

Teaching Tolerance [professional development webinars](#):

- Let's Talk! Discussing Race, Racism and Other Difficult Topics with Students
- Let's Talk! Discussing Black Lives Matter with Students
- Let's Talk! Teaching Black Lives Matter
- Equity Matters: Confronting Implicit Bias

[EmbraceRace](#) Action Guides

- 8 Tips for Choosing Picture Books Featuring Black and Indigenous People and People of Color
- 3 Tips for Raising Equity
- 4 Steps to Help Kids Push Back Against White Nationalism
- 7 Ways to Highlight Resistance Efforts When Discussing Oppression with Children
- How to use Books to Engage Kids in Rich Conversations about Difference
- Choosing Excellent Children's Books by and about American Indians
- 10 Tips for Teaching and Talking to Kids about Race
- How to be an Ally to Muslim American Families
- 5 Tips for White Parents Looking to Build Momentum Around Racial Justice
- 8 Tips for Talking to Your Child About Racial Injustice

[Talking to White Kids About Race & Racism](#) program with accompanying Discussion Guide is provided by Safe Space Radio.

[Talking Race with Young Children](#) is a 20-minute podcast on how to handle conversations about race, racism, diversity, and inclusion.

[What did you just say?](#) Is a list of response to racist comments created by the Oregon Center for Educational Equity.

[Black Lives Matter at School](#) is a national coalition organizing for racial justice in education. An action week is encouraged during the first week of February each year.

[Facing History and Ourselves](#) uses lessons of history to challenge teachers and their students to stand up to bigotry and hate. Teaching Ideas, Activities, and Strategies for Middle and High School Students are provided.

[Exploring Equity Issues: Teaching Kids about Identity and Bias](#), a research brief that identifies strategies educators can use to “cultivate positive attitudes toward different identity groups,” thereby increasing understanding and decreasing bias.

These are parent/family engagement webinars, but definitely lessons for teachers, too!

[Exploring your Genes and Talking about Race](#) – a webinar hosted by Turning the Page and MAEC, Inc.

[Talking about Race and Social Justice with Your Children](#) – a webinar hosted by Turning the Page and MAEC, Inc.