

Racial Micro-aggressions

- Brief, commonplace and daily
- Verbal, behavioral and environmental indignities
- Intent vs. Impact
- Gain power from their cumulative effects
- Larger messages from society

“Racial micro-aggressions are brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral or environmental indignities, whether intentional or unintentional, that communicate hostile, derogatory or negative racial slights and insults toward people of color.” - Dr. Derald Wing Sue

Racial Micro-Aggression examples:

1. Where are you from? You speak English well.
(Comment directed at an Asian American person)
2. When I look at you, I don't see color.
(Comment directed at a Black or Brown person)
3. You aren't like other Black people.
4. As a woman, I understand what racism feels like.
(Comment made by a White woman to a Person of Color)
5. Calling a Black person by another Black person's name.
(This is particularly a micro-aggression when there are only two Black students in the class or a few Black faculty members)
6. I have to know, why are black people so loud?
7. You are in a faculty meeting and a white colleague disregards a black parent, saying that they're always angry.

Discussion Questions

What are the possible intentions of the person who said this?

What are the possible impacts on the person it was said to?

What are the underlying messages that are conveyed by this statement?

Anti-Racism Resources

Books

- *Other People's Children* (2006) Lisa Delpit
- *Why Are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* (2003) Beverly Daniel Tatum
- *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness* (2006) George Lipsitz
- *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* (2008) Ronald Takaki
- *Lies My Teacher Told Me* (2007) J. Loewen
- *Everyday Antiracism* (2008) Mica Pollock
- *White Like Me* (2007) Tim Wise
- *Raising Race Questions* (2015) Ali Michael
- *White Teachers, Diverse Classrooms* (2011) Julie Landsman and Chance Lewis
- *Talking Race in the Classroom* (2005) Bolgatz
- *Up Against Whiteness* (2005) Lee
- *Uprooting Racism: How White People can Work for Racial Justice* (2002) Paul Kivel
- *Playing with Anger* (2003) Howard Stevenson
- *We Can't Teach What We Don't Know* (2006) Gary Howard

Articles

Becoming an Anti-Racist White Ally (2009) Michael
Racial Microaggressions in Everyday Life (2007) Sue

Uncertain Allies (1995) Cochran-Smith
Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack (1998) McIntosh

Films

The Color of Fear (1994) David Lee
Mirrors of Privilege (2007) Shakti Butler
Cracking the Codes (2012) Shakti Butler
Race: The Power of Illusion (PBS) (2003) Adelman
Traces of the Trade (2006) Katrina Browne

Available Online

The Danger of a Single Story (2009) Adichie
A Girl Like Me (2007) Davis

Websites & Blogs

Rethinkingschools.org
Antiracistparent.com
Minorityreporter.com
Racialicious.com
Understandingrace.org
Timwise.org
Tolerance.org
Microaggressions.com
Raceinstitute.org

Conferences & Events

Whites Confronting Racism
April 24-26, 2015
www.whitesconfrontingracism.org

White Privilege Conference
March 11-14, 2015 Louisville, KY
www.whiteprivilegeconference.com

Race Institute for Educators
August 5-7, 2015 – Abington Friends School
<http://www.raceinstitute.org>

Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology & Education: Hoodies Up 2015
February 13-14, 2015 – Teachers College, NYC
<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/centers/roundtable/>