

Look Deeper: Race

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MODULES 1 - 3

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION TIME: 60 MINUTES



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MODULES 1 - 3



Facilitator Note. You may want to begin your small group discussion with the same one-word reaction exercise that's used in Module 3. Asking people how they feel is a great entry point and can lead to a robust discussion because we often find that group members have different reactions to the very same content.



WARM-UP (15 MINUTES OR MORE)

One-Word Exercise. Ask the group: What's one word that describes what you were thinking or feeling as you finished Module 3 – Defining Racism?

Potential follow up: What was the word you typed into the module exercise? What, if anything, changed for you?

Say A Little More. If you're working with a group of 20 or fewer, ask group members to volunteer saying a little more about the word they used.

For larger groups of more than 20, you may want to have them split up into pairs or trios for this exercise and then debrief with the larger group after they have a chance to discuss in small groups.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (30 MINUTES)

You may want to pose all or just a few of the questions below to the group. Instead of simply moving through the questions below, one by one, try varying discussion formats to get group members more deeply engaged with the discussion and in conversation with one another. Here are a couple of suggestions:

Small Groups. Split the group up into small groups of 3 or 4 and ask them to explore just one of the questions below for 15-20 minutes. Then, ask small groups to share with the entire group what they discussed.

Individual Writing Exercise. Ask participants to choose 2-3 of the questions and spend 5 minutes writing responses down on paper. Then, have them share their responses in small groups and, later, ask a few volunteers to share and discuss with the larger group.

1. Which student or students in the film could you identify with? In what ways could you identify with them? In what ways could you not identify with them?

2. How did you feel about the individual experiences and perspectives about race and racism that the students shared? Were you surprised by any of it? If so, how? If not, why not?

MODULES 1 - 3



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, CONTINUED

3. Reflect on the following comments made by Sacha and Kahleek, respectively, in the Module 2 film segment:

Sacha:

"Me and my family don't really talk about racism, uh, that much, at least directly. I don't think that it's a very pressing issue, for our family. We're, we're a very liberal family. We don't think that anyone's less of a person because of the color of their skin."

Kahleek:

These thoughts have been in my head for a while. Race has always been there. People need to see that, instead of ignoring it, and trying to be like, there's no segregation, there's no slavery. Everybody's free. There's no problem with it. It's still here though, and people need to know.

4. In the first module, the online course facilitator asked how we defined racism. How did you define it in that first exercise? Would you change your response now? Why or why not?

5. In Module 3, the online course facilitators provided some context and clarity about how the workshop facilitators in the film defined racism. How did you feel about their explanations?

6. What is your understanding of the distinction between institutional racism and individual prejudice? Do you think it's important to make those distinctions? Why or why not?



WRAP-UP (5 - 10 MINUTES)

Individual Writing Exercise. Talking about these issues can be confusing and disorienting. We often leave these discussions with more questions than answers. That's part of the process of exploring complex subject matter. In the spirit of becoming more comfortable with unanswered questions, please take a few minutes to respond to the following:

What's one question you're still grappling with as you leave this room today?

Share Writing Exercise. Ask for a few volunteers to share what they wrote.

Next Steps. Encourage the group to think about their questions and remind them of the Look Deeper: Race course landing page if they'd like more resources for exploring these issues: <http://pointmadelearning.com/inrai-course-landing>

Thank Participants. If you haven't already, be sure to remind them of when they'll be asked to complete Modules 4-6 and meet again to discuss that portion of the online course.