

I'M NOT RACIST... AM I? WATCH GUIDE

Thank you for watching *I'm Not Racist... Am I?* This is a film that requires work -- before, during, and ESPECIALLY after you watch. We have created this brief guide to provide you with background on the film and a couple of suggestions for points to pause, reflect, and write down questions. Then, we'll see you after the film so we can talk about all of it.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

This project started with a 3rd-grade teacher in New York City -- a white man in his 50s who had always considered himself enlightened when it came to race and racism because he was a nice person. Then, at the suggestion of his colleague and friend who led racial equity and justice initiatives at his school, he participated in a 2-day intensive workshop called Undoing Racism led by the People's Institute for Survival & Beyond. That experience helped him realize how little he knew about racism and what it means to be white in the U.S. He resolved to make sure young people could learn about systemic racism earlier than he had.

He worked with his school to receive a grant from the Kellogg Foundation to establish a Deconstructing Race initiative, which brought students together from public and private schools throughout New York City to explore race and racism. Their journey is what we documented for this film.

PLEASE STICK WITH IT

As you watch the film, you will likely experience a range of emotions. We expect most viewers will feel uncomfortable at some point. Take breaks if you need to. But please come back. The young people in this film stayed in the work for the entire school year. We ask you to consider doing the same for 90 minutes.

Content Warning: Beginning at timecode 45:45, there's a scene where the "N-word" -- not the abbreviation, the full word -- is said repeatedly.

BEFORE YOU WATCH

Write down at least a few sentences to respond to the following questions:

1. Why have you agreed to watch this film?
2. What is YOUR definition of racism? (Don't look it up!)
3. Do you feel committed to fighting racism? If no, why not? If so, what, specifically, is motivating you?

WHILE YOU WATCH

To help frame our post-film discussion, we suggest pausing the film at a few key moments and writing down at least a few sentences of reflection. We hope these prompts help:

1. Timecode -- 24:18

- a. Write down one word to express what you're thinking or feeling about the scene you just watched.
- b. In a few sentences, reflect on why that word came to mind.
- c. What questions do you have about this scene and the way racism is defined?

2. Timecode -- 1:00:51

- a. Take a moment to write down at least a few words or sentences to describe how you're feeling now and to reflect on how what you've just watched connects to what's happening in the United States right now.
- b. As we finished the production of this film, George Zimmerman's trial for the murder of Trayvon Martin was just beginning. Reflect on what has stayed the same and what has changed since 2012.

3. After the film ends

- a. Write down one word to express what you're thinking or feeling now about the entire film.
- b. What questions are circling around in your head?