Black History Month

Impact Series Teaching Guide & Resources

Teaching guide to help engage in important conversations with students

About this Guide

It is impossible to condense all of the nuances of Black history into one month. This teaching guide is meant to help faculty engage in important conversations with our students that cover a wide array of issues. The guide is not meant to be a step-by-step instruction, but rather a resource from where you can pull readings, videos, and discussion questions to immerse your students into meaningful dialogue. Below you will find a vocabulary list of important and related terms, some recommended readings and videos, suggested discussion questions, and supplemental information.

We ask that you encourage your students to go beyond the classroom conversations and into action by participating in the monthly Stop and Serve activities provided by Student Affairs.

Vocabulary

Critical Race Theory

Two central tenets of Critical Race Theory (CRT) are its advocacy of "white supremacy" as an accurate description of everyday racism and its primacy of "race" over class (Cole, 2017). Moreover, the term "white supremacy" at least implicates all white people as part of some hegemonic bloc of "whiteness (Cole, 2017). "For Mills (1997, p. 1), "white supremacy" is "the basic political system that has shaped the world for the past several hundred years" and "the most important political system of recent global history," while the racial contract "designates Europeans as the privileged race" (p. 33). To underline the point that he sees "white supremacy" as a political system in its own right and that the racial contract is both "real" and "global" (p. 20), Mills asserts: Global white supremacy … is itself a political system, a particular power structure of formal or informal rule, socioeconomic privilege, and norms for the differential distribution of material wealth and opportunities, benefits and burdens, rights and duties (p. 3)" (As cited in Cole, 2017).

Police Brutality

According to Allsides Red Blue Dictionary (2019):

> "police brutality is the use of excessive and/or unnecessary force by police. Historically in the United States, police brutality has been a component of many major political and social movements. According to Wikipedia, demonstrations surrounding the civil rights movement of the 1960s, anti-war protests, the War on Drugs, and the Global War on Terrorism have all involved excessive force claims by police. In the modern-day U.S., many police brutality videos in police shootings have been caught on camera and shared widely via social media. This has lead to the creation of the Black Lives Matter movement and the claim that American police disproportionately use excessive force against/kill more unarmed black people than white people. Because the FBI does not keep complete data on police shootings by race, the claim is sharply debated. Some have argued that American police are selectively biased against black Americans. In contrast, others say there's no statistical basis for the claim and that disproportionate attention is given to cases involving black Americans. According to Snopes, in absolute numbers, more white people than black people are killed in police shootings because white people outnumber black people in America. Like The Washington Post, which AllSides rates as having a Lean Left media bias, some independent sources have begun to keep track of police killings in a way that takes race into account proportionate to the overall population. In July 2016, the Post reported that the publication had launched a real-time database to track fatal police shootings the year prior. They wrote: "According to the most recent census data, there are nearly 160 million more white people in America than there are black people. White people make up roughly 62 percent of the U.S. population but only about 49 percent of those whom police officers killed. African Americans, however, account for 24 percent of those fatally shot and killed by the police despite being just 13 percent of the U.S. population. As The Post noted in a new analysis published last week, that means black Americans are 2.5 times as likely as white Americans to be shot and killed by police officers."

Weaponizing of Stereotypes

The racial stereotypes of early American history had a significant role in shaping attitudes toward African-Americans: Images of the Sambo, Jim Crow, the Savage, Mammy, Aunt Jemimah, Sapphire, and Jezebel. These stereotypes are perpetuated throughout culture and used as a weapon.
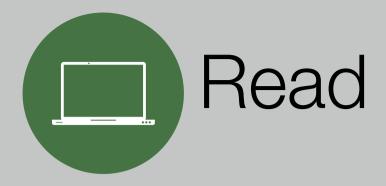
Vocabulary

Double Consciousness
"Double-consciousness is a concept in social philosophy referring, originally, to a source of inward "twoness" putatively experienced by African-Americans because of their racialized oppression and disvaluation in a white-dominated society. The concept is often associated with William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, who introduced the term into social and political thought, famously, in his groundbreaking The Souls of Black Folk (1903)." (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2016).

Code-Switching
Code-switching is "the practice of alternating between two or more languages or varieties of language in conversation." (Oxford Languages, 2021). According to McCluney, Robotham, Lee, Smith, and Durke (2019), "code-switching, which has long been a strategy for black people to navigate interracial interactions successfully and has large implications for their well-being, economic advancement, and even physical survival:

- For black people and other racial minorities, downplaying membership in a stigmatized racial group helps increase professionalism perceptions and the likelihood of being hired.
- Avoiding negative stereotypes associated with the black racial identity (e.g., incompetence, laziness) helps black employees be seen as leaders.
- Expressing shared interests with members of dominant groups promotes similarity with powerful organizational members, which raises the chance of promotions because individuals tend to affiliate with people they perceive as similar."

For more racial literacy definitions like critical consciousness, color blindness, equity, implicit bias, intersectionality, micro-affirmation, and much more in the Conscious Kid's Racial Literacy: Key Terms.

Read

- Read Article "Presumption of Guilt" by the Equal Justice Initiative

- Read "The American Nightmare: To Be Black and Conscious of Anti-Black Racism Is to Stare Into the Mirror of Your Own Extinction" by Ibram X. Kendi

- Read an excerpt from any of Lynn Library's anti-racism book or online reading lists in the Be A Global Citizen Guide.

Watch

Watch 'A Conversation with Police on Race'
New York Times
In this short documentary (6:48), former officers share their thoughts on policing and race in America.

Watch 'A Conversation Growing Up Black'
New York Times
In this short documentary (5:21), young black men explain the particular challenges they face growing up in America.

Watch

Watch <u>Equal Justice Institute's director Bryan Stevenson on Race, Police, and How to Move Forward</u>
CBS This Morning
The presumption that people of color are guilty and dangerous is a legacy of American History (6:45).

<u>The Danger of a Single Story by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie</u>
TED
Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding (19:16).

Discussions How-To

Consider developing a class contract before discussions this will facilitate a safe learning environment for students to discuss topics with civility.

Definition: Contracting is the process of openly discussing with your students' expectations about how the class members will treat each other. A contract implies that all parties have a responsibility to uphold the agreement.
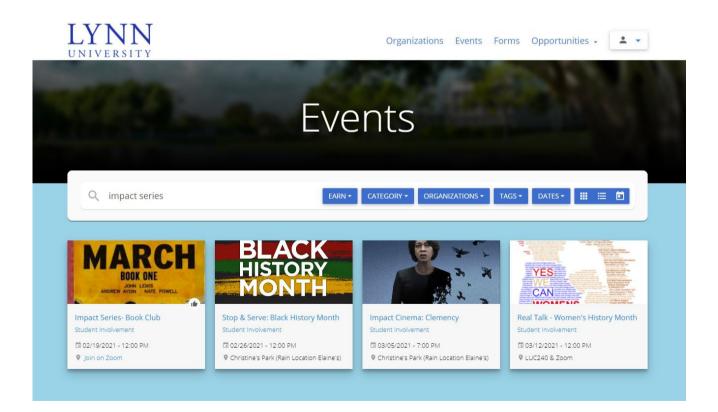
It is an effective strategy for making your classroom a reflective community. Feel free to modify the list from Facing History and Ourselves below:

Here is a list of norms that have been used in previous Facing History classrooms:
- Listen with respect. Try to understand what someone is saying before rushing to judgment.
- Make comments using "I" statements.
- If students do not feel safe making a comment or asking a question, write the thought in your journal or notebook. You can share the idea with you first and together come up with a safe way to share the idea.
- If someone says an idea or question that helps your own learning, say thank you.
- If someone says something that hurts or offends you, do not attack the person. Acknowledge that the comment—not the person—hurt your feelings and explain why.
- Put-downs are never okay.
- If you don't understand something, ask a question.
- Think with your head and your heart.
- Share the talking time—provide room for others to speak.
- Do not interrupt others while they are speaking.
- Write thoughts down if you don't have time to say them during class.
- Your thoughts do not have to be shared publicly.

Act

Encourage your students to engage with the monthly service project, Stop & Serve, attend the monthly book discussion club and the monthly film in the Impact Series. Search "Impact Series" in lynn.presence.io for more information or contact CSI@lynn.edu.

Supplement

- Facing History and Ourselves Guide on <u>Fostering Civil Discourse: How Do We Talk About Issues That Matter</u>
- Teaching Tolerance Guide on <u>Teaching About Race, Racism and Police Violence</u>
- Washington Post <u>Police Shooting Database</u>
- Stanford's <u>Open Policing Database</u>
- Ezra Klein's podcast and transcript, <u>Race, Policing, and the Universal Yearning for Safety</u>.
- Samara Lynn <u>"Black-on-Black crime': A loaded and controversial phrase often heard amid calls for police reform</u>
- LA Times: OpEd - <u>How the media smears black victims</u>
- Vox: <u>When a police shooting victim is a white woman</u>
- CNN OpEd - <u>The conversation we need on police shootings</u>

References

Cole, M. (2017). *Critical race theory: A Marxist critique. In M. Peters, Encyclopedia of educational philosophy and theory. Springer Science+Business Media.* <u>http://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/sprepat/critical_race_theory_a_marxist_critique/0?institutionId=1065</u>

Code-switching. (2009). In A. S. Reber, R. Allen, & E. S. Reber, The Penguin Dictionary of Psychology (4th ed.). Penguin. <u>http://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/penguinpsyc/code_switching/0?institutionId=1065</u>

Police brutality. (2019). In AllSides (Ed.), Allsides Red Blue Dictionary. <u>http://lynn-lang.student.lynn.edu/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/allsab/police_brutality/0?institutionId=1065</u>

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH