

Racial Justice Curriculum Overview



Overall Objective:

While identifying personal leadership traits, youth will participate in a series of experiential education activities designed to explore race in America “as a social construct.” Youth will learn how to develop communication skills that allow individuals to successfully complete tasks and meet goals as a group. Youth will attempt to define race, explore the history of race in America and learn about structural, social and psychological implications slavery has had on American civilization. While exploring the concept of race youth will learn about the divisiveness of stereotypes and discover what they can do in order to stand for racial justice in the City of Memphis.

Guiding Questions:

- What is race?
- What is justice?
- What is racial justice?
- What talents or skills do I possess that can make my group successful?
- What will our group need to do together in order to be successful?
- What factors contributed to the construction and continuance of racial injustice in America?
- What is redlining?
- What are stereotypes and how do they affect people?
- What can an individual do to stand for racial justice?

Key Concepts:

- Racial Justice exists when all people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds are equitably represented, engaged, empowered and respected in communities, politics, economics and law.
- Cooperation is sometimes more effective than competition even when a goal requires an individual’s personal best.
- Race is a social construct, which means that it is a product of society’s ideas, history and social circumstances. If it can be constructed it can be deconstructed.
- Redlining was a bank policy of marking areas on a map that were generally Black and low-income and thus not offering loans within those areas due to fear that the individuals or businesses would not be able to repay their loans.
- Stereotypes are an oversimplified opinion, prejudiced attitude, or uncritical judgment about a group of people

CORE STANDARDS Alignment:

The BRIDGES Connect Curriculum has been aligned with the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCRAS). All learning activities within the Connect Curriculum support and assume shared responsibility for attaining the standards. While it is necessary for youth and educational leaders to devote significant time and effort in various educational settings to attain these standards, participation in the BRIDGES Connect Curriculum will enhance students’ knowledge and skills necessary for success in this endeavor. In addition, since the Connect Curriculum is inextricably linked to social justice and action issues embedded within race, ecology, economics and education, the learning activities intentionally promote the following College and Career Dimensions and youth’s ability to:

- *Comprehend and Critique Significant Human/Social Issues
- *Build Strong Content Knowledge
- *Gain Self-Awareness
- *Demonstrate Independence as well as Collaboration
- *Respond to Particular Audience, Task, Purpose & Discipline
- *Value Evidence as Basis for Analysis, Opinion, Implications, Action
- *Use Technology and other Digital Media Strategically and Capably

In addition, participation in the Bridges Connect Curriculum offers a unique and critical opportunity for urban youth to develop, make a commitment to and demonstrate community leadership through academic pursuit, advocacy, and activism.