



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.5 Thinking About Race in Academia

Objectives

Analyze the influences of race as it relates to academia.

Materials needed

Pen and paper or copies of the handout

Possibly, reference materials

Time needed

Thirty to sixty minutes

Instructor directions

Ask your students to write an autobiography of how experiences in their major have been racialized.

Have them answer questions about ways it has influenced them.

Collect individual assignments or discuss in large group.

Variation

Have your students write autobiographies of how experiences in their majors or fields have been genderized.



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4.5 Thinking About Race in Academia Handout

Directions

Write an autobiography of how experiences in your major or field have been racialized.

Answer the following questions:

Do your instructors look like you? In what ways do they look the same or different?

How do your instructors treat people who are like you? Who are different?

Do other students in your major look like you? How do they treat people who are like you? Who are different?

Do your textbooks contain information by or about people like you?

What are some similarities and differences between you and the people who research, write, grant funding, and make policy in your major or field?

Variation

Write an autobiography of how experiences in your major or field have been genderized.