

TEACHING TOLERANCE



A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG

Professional Development Resources for “Let’s Talk! Discussing Race, Racism and Other Difficult Topics With Students”

RACE AND PRIVILEGE

Straight Talk About the N-Word

This Teaching Tolerance feature story focuses on the complexities of the n-word, how it became offensive, and why and with whom it is still popular today.

www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-40-fall-2011/feature/straight-talk-about-n-word

Reflection Activity: Identity

Use this guide to engage in reflection about personal identity.

www.tolerance.org/reflection-activity-identity

Test Yourself for Hidden Bias

Willingness to examine our own biases is an important step in understanding the roots of prejudice. Take this test to measure your unconscious biases.

www.tolerance.org/Hidden-bias

Toolkit for “The Gentle Catalyst”

This “adult privilege” checklist can be used as a tool to help teachers think about their own privilege in the classroom.

www.tolerance.org/privilege-assessment

Talking With Students About Ferguson and Racism

Read the reflections of one high school English teacher on discussing these topics with her students.

www.tolerance.org/blog/talking-students-about-ferguson-and-racism

On Racism and White Privilege

This excerpt from *White Anti-Racist Activism: A Personal Roadmap*, which explores issues of race and white privilege.

www.tolerance.org/article/racism-and-white-privilege

Ferguson, U.S.A.

This article offers educators three approaches for thinking and talking about the events in Ferguson, Missouri.

www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-49-spring-2015/feature/ferguson-usa

The Gentle Catalyst

This article highlights three teachers who are serving as “gentle catalysts”: people who gently ask you to examine your own privilege.

www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-46-spring-2014/feature/gentle-catalyst

It’s Still Good to Talk About Race Consider the fear and hesitation surrounding conversations regarding race, and listen to one educator who responds honestly and directly.
www.tolerance.org/talk-about-race

“Hang Out” With Anti-bias Education Experts

Five winners of the Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Teaching discuss topics surrounding anti-bias education with some of the biggest names in the field. Sonia Nieto focuses on how to sustain a courageous conversation around race. Peggy McIntosh discusses privilege and curricular revision that can support teaching about race.

www.tolerance.org/blog/

hang-out-anti-bias-education-experts

LGBT

Sex? Sexual Orientation? Gender Identity? Gender Expression?

This feature story helps clarify the confusion surrounding the nature of gender, sex and sexual orientation.

www.tolerance.org/magazine/number-50-summer-2015/feature/sex-sexual-orientation-gender-identity-gender-expression

Books Help Open Talks About LGBT Issues

Discover practical insight into using books to educate students on LGBT topics.

www.tolerance.org/blog/books-help-open-talks-about-lgbt-issues

Best Practices: Creating an LGBT-inclusive School Climate

This extensive guide provides advice for educators on cultivating an LGBT-inclusive school environment.

www.tolerance.org/publication/best-practices-creating-lgbt-inclusive-school-climate

“That’s So Gay”: From a Teacher’s Perspective

One educator describes the evolution of his perspective on students using the phrase “That’s so gay.”

www.tolerance.org/so-gay-teacher-perspective

Coming Out as a Safe Zone for LGBT Students?

This blog offers ideas for supporting LGBT students and helping to keep them safe.

www.tolerance.org/blog/coming-out-safe-zone-lgbt-students

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Finding the Courage to Act

Hear from one teacher whose decision to reach out and speak up made a profound difference.

www.tolerance.org/blog/finding-courage-act

Saving the Lives of Our LGBT Students

Insight from a university professor helps educators understand the balance of building trust while establishing and maintaining boundaries.

www.tolerance.org/blog/saving-lives-our-lgbt-students

ABILITY

When Students Teach

Consider the commonplace misuse of language around ability, the source of tension and stress for many people.

www.tolerance.org/blog/when-students-teach

Let's Disable the Word Lame

In the same way we've diminished the pejorative use of *gay* and *retarded*, this educator calls for the end of contemporary usage of *lame*.

www.tolerance.org/blog/let-s-disable-word-lame

Looking Beyond Labels

A psychologist reflects on the effect of mental health labels and ways to avoid their limitations.

www.tolerance.org/blog/looking-beyond-labels

RELIGION

Diverse Beliefs in Homogenous Classrooms?

Learn how to teach about a diversity of religious and non-religious beliefs in a homogenous classroom.

www.tolerance.org/blog/

[diverse-beliefs-homogenous-classrooms](http://www.tolerance.org/blog/diverse-beliefs-homogenous-classrooms)

Religious Diversity in the Classroom

This extensive resource examines how awareness of religious diversity affects global citizenship, and how teaching about religion across grade levels and subject areas can help meet academic standards. The series includes five webinars, as well as activities, lessons and blogs.

www.tolerance.org/seminar/religious-diversity-classroom

Agree to (Respectfully) Disagree

Learn how to encourage respectful conversations about religious diversity in the face of excluded or offended students.

www.tolerance.org/blog/agree-respectfully-disagree

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Student-Facing Resources for “Let’s Talk! Discussing Race, Racism and Other Difficult Topics With Students”

Perspectives for a Diverse America

This K–12 curriculum includes hundreds of diverse texts for diverse readers. The Community Inquiry strategies, in particular, are designed to help students develop their verbal skills as they discuss social justice topics by referring to the text. Lenses include ability, race and ethnicity, LGBT, gender, religion, immigration, class and place. Visit this seminar page to learn more about *Perspectives*.

www.tolerance.org/seminar/teach-perspectives-diverse-america

LESSONS/ACTIVITIES RACE AND PRIVILEGE

Activity for “Straight Talk about the N-word”

As one of the most loaded words in the English language, is there ever a place for the n-word? Explore this question with students in the upper grades in this activity.

www.tolerance.org/toolkit/portfolio-activity-straight-talk-about-n-word

Teaching *The New Jim Crow*

These lessons explore myriad issues surrounding race, justice and mass incarceration. *Talking About Race and Racism*, specifically, helps students understand how to participate in an open and honest conversation on these topics.

www.tolerance.org/publication/teaching-new-jim-crow

LGBT

Marriage Equality: Different Strategies for Attaining Equal Rights

This lesson focuses on the different means by which people bring about change using the Constitution.

www.tolerance.org/lesson/marriage-equality-different-strategies-attaining-equal-right

Toolkit for “Gender Spectrum”

In this lesson, students consider the roots of gender stereotypes, their consequences and how to change them. Available for grades K–2 and 3–5.

www.tolerance.org/toolkit/toolkit-gender-spectrum

ABILITY

The Civil Rights Act and the ADA

This activity asks students to read and compare the

language of selected civil rights legislation.

www.tolerance.org/activity/civil-rights-act-and-ada

Toolkit for Beautiful Differences

This toolkit will help teachers and students discuss issues of accessibility and what they mean in your school and local community.

www.tolerance.org/toolkit/toolkit-beautiful-differences

Picturing Accessibility: Art, Activism and Physical Disabilities

These four lessons focus on public design and provide opportunities for students to discuss what they know and don’t know about accessibility, ableism and stereotypes regarding people with disabilities.

www.tolerance.org/lesson/picturing-accessibility-art-activism-and-physical-disabilities

RELIGION

Toolkit for “In Good Faith”

Expand students’ knowledge and understanding of the religious diversity (or lack thereof) in their city, country or state.

www.tolerance.org/religious-diversity

The School Holiday Calendar

Students think about how school districts respond to the needs of increasingly diverse populations by learning about the debate in New York City public schools around religious holidays.

www.tolerance.org/lesson/school-holiday-calendar

The First Amendment and Freedom of Religion

By examining the controversy surrounding an Islamic cultural center, students discuss whether religious freedom is absolute and if religious freedom requires respect for other religions.

www.tolerance.org/lesson/first-amendment-and-freedom-religion

Peace Be Upon You

Explore the separation of church and state regarding school prayer and religious tolerance.

www.tolerance.org/activity/peace-be-upon-you