

# 10 WAYS TO EDUCATE FOR ANTI-RACISM AND TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY : IDEAS FOR TEACHERS

## 1. WRITE A COMMITMENT PLEDGE TO RACIAL UNITY AT YOUR SCHOOL OR IN YOUR CLASS

During class discussion, explore the interracial issues and challenges in your school community and in your adjoining neighborhoods. Create a process where all can contribute in a reflective and honest way to write a Pledge Against Racism for your school. Have the completed pledge printed up in a large format. Encourage the Administration at your school to adopt the pledge, distribute it, and have the students say it together on a special day.

## 2. START A HARMONY or ANTI-RACISM GROUP FOR STUDENTS and/or FACULTY IN YOUR SCHOOL

Begin with a group that gets together once a month to discuss the general climate at your school and surrounding neighborhoods. Create a space where people can share their stories without comment. Once the group has created a climate of trust, consider what positive actions you would like to take as a group to address problems and issues.

## 3. BEGIN A "BRIDGE-SCHOOL" ACTIVITY

Much of our ignorance about race comes from having very little contact or experience with persons who are different from ourselves. Consider developing an ongoing "bridge-activity" with another school in your area that is quite different from your own particular school. Beyond athletic events, we seldom enjoy connections with communities different from ours. Consider collaborating with another school in a joint service project or inviting members from another school to a discussion about diversity and how to build bridges among different communities.



#### **4. PRESENT an ART EXHIBIT**

Consider the underrepresented students and groups in your school. Seek to celebrate a particular group with paintings, videos, artifacts, or decorations from that particular culture. Have a special opening event for this exhibit and communicate the positive values and richness of the culture on display.

#### **5. PLAN & CREATE A HERITAGE PHOTOGRAPHY EVENT**

Consider exploring the rich variety of ethnic identities and histories of your student body through the assembly of students' family photographs of great grandparents, grandparents and parents. Design the assignment around the theme of immigration to America and the journeys of previous generations. The family tree could also be a fruitful model for gathering photographs and the students' accounts of these images. Photographs could be copied and scanned and developed into an attractive display or presentation.

#### **6. USE A PROFESSIONAL STORYTELLER FOR A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY FOCUSED ON THE MISSION OF RACIAL UNITY**

Stories can unlock hearts. Professional storytellers can promote thought, reflection, and action about race and diversity. The stories told--personal, humorous, tragic and hopeful--evoke stories in the listener and can move participants towards commitment and action. Email: [schools@RaceBridgesForSchools.com](mailto:schools@RaceBridgesForSchools.com) for information about storytellers committed to racial justice who work well with student audiences.

#### **7. INVITE A SPEAKER FROM THE WIDER WORLD**

Invite a speaker to your school who is from a completely different racial and ethnic background to encourage/challenge students and faculty to see the world from a different perspective. A panel of speakers could enrich the idea. Events in the world prompt us to consider a Muslim speaker and a theme that uncovers stereotypes of Muslims and Islam.



## **8. LEARN ABOUT JUSTICE SEEKERS AND DOERS**

Create a special focus on the men and women who have fought and struggled for racial justice in the history of the United States and/or throughout global history. Remember to include heroes of all ethnicities and races and those who crossed “color lines” to act as allies to people of another race.

## **9. PLAN A DAY-TRIP TO TWO MUSEUMS THAT REPRESENT TWO DISTINCT CULTURES IN YOUR AREA**

Develop and plan a day-trip for students to two cultural institutions that represent two cultures present in your school community. Focus these visits on the contributions of these groups and their part in the richness of American culture.

## **10. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO TEACHING ISSUES OF RACE, RACISM AND DIVERSITY**

There are many resources out there to help teachers talk about these sensitive and important issues. Teaching Tolerance ([www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)) offers a diverse array of free resources for teachers, including lesson plans. The two-level curriculum Kaleidoscope: Valuing Difference & Creating Inclusion is an affordable resource available at [www.susanohalloran.com](http://www.susanohalloran.com). Contact National Conference for Community and Justice ([www.nccj.org](http://www.nccj.org)) about support and training for teachers and students.

Thank you for using the RaceBridges for Schools Lesson Plans and opening your students' minds and lives to a wider and richer world. Let us know how you did.

Comments/Questions : [Teachers@RacebridgesForSchools.com](mailto:Teachers@RacebridgesForSchools.com)

