

Science Museum of MN: QUESTIONS ON RACE

Personal Experience with Race and Racism

How has race directly or indirectly affected your life? What have you experienced, witnessed, read about?

Do you have friends outside of your racial/ethnic group?

The American Dream says if you work hard you'll be rewarded, that anyone can "pull themselves up by the bootstraps." How is this more difficult for people not defined as white?

When did you first realize there were people different from you? How did that feel?

Have you ever had an experience when you were different from everyone else in a group? What was that like?

How much diversity existed in the community you lived in during your growing up years?

Have you ever seen people being treated differently because of how they look?

Where did you first learn about race/racism? When did you first become aware that race matters?

When was the first time you had an awareness or consciousness about your ethnic identity?

Why do you think privilege exists?

Is racism better or worse than in the past?

What happens between elementary school and high school where initially all kids are all together and as they get older they self segregate?

Share an experience where you or someone you know was hurt by racism.

When in your life has race come up as a topic of conversation?

Are you comfortable talking about race? If not, explain, if so, how?

Why do you think most people don't like to talk about race or racism?

What's been your experience having conversations about race with your family, co-workers and or/friends?

How do you see yourself in terms of accepting others with different cultures or ethnicities?

What is more important to you; race or culture and why?

If race were eliminated today, would it stop discrimination?

Now What: Next Steps / Future Action

How do we go about creating change?

If you could talk to a stranger who said something racially offensive to you, what would you say?

What gets in the way of open dialogue about race/racism for you personally?

If racial issues occur in your workplace in the future, how will you handle them?

What will you do if you see someone being treated differently because of his or her skin color?

What are the disparities today in our communities and how can we address them?

Why do you think racism exists? How can we change this?

What are some changes needed in your workplace? How can you influence or make these changes?

Do you see a place for circle dialogue on race in your institution/organization?

The melting pot did not include everyone. What phrase can we use that might aptly describe the relationship between the various people in the U.S.?

Who do you know or know of that is doing their part to dismantle racism and what are they doing?