



City of Worcester Community Dialogues on Race

Session 5: Monday June 22nd, Media and Online Social Networks, Technical High School

Purpose of tonight's dialogue: Discuss the role of media and online social networks for perpetuating or dismantling racism.

Desired outcome for tonight's dialogue

- ➔ 1. A list of ways racism is perpetuated or dismantled through media.
- ➔ 2. A list of ways media outlets can improve their reporting based on race.
- ➔ 3. A list of ways readers of online media and participants of online social media networks can dismantle racism.

Definition of Racism

For purposes of these dialogues, racism = prejudice + power, a common phrase in the field. It is also described as a system of oppression based on the socially constructed concept of race exercised by the dominant racial group (whites) over non-dominant racial groups. Racism operates on 4 levels: Internalized, Interpersonal, Institutional, and Structural. The relationship and behavior of these four levels allows racism to perpetuate itself generation after generation. Systems perpetuate racial inequity and no longer need racist actors or to explicitly promote racial differences in opportunities, outcomes and consequences to perpetuate racial disparities and inequities.

For more details go to www.racialequitytools.org

Questions to consider:

20 minutes

Brainstorm a list of answers to this question:

- 1. How does the media (print, television, radio) perpetuate or dismantle racism?**

20 minutes

Brainstorm a list of answers to this question:

- 2. Do the stories the media choose to report on reflect the issues and events going on in all communities?**

20 minutes

Brainstorm a list of answers to this question:

- 3. How do community conversation on the web (online comments) and social media perpetuate or dismantle racism?**

10 minutes

Facilitator and Notetaker determine with the group the 6 answers (2 points per question) you wish to share for your group's report back.