

REAL TALK

Real Talk About Racism hosted by Marlon Smith

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

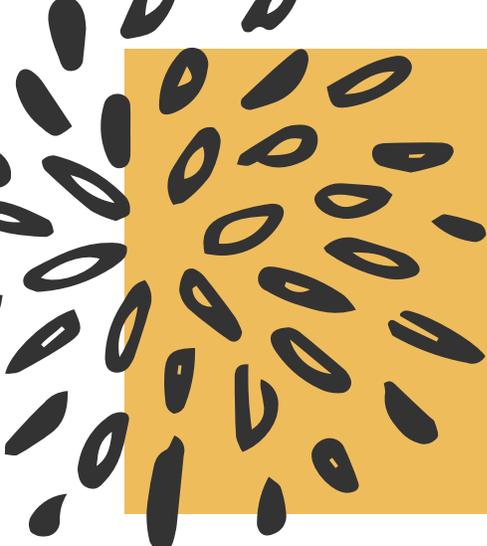
When were you first aware of your race?

When you hear people in your circles making biased comments, do you speak up? Why or why not?

Who are you most afraid of having conversations about race with? Do you have any idea why?

Is there a next step you would like to take based upon what you learned during the session you attended?





WHITE PRIVILEGE

Layla Saad, author of "Me and White Supremacy," describes white privilege as the "unearned advantages that are granted because of one's whiteness or ability to 'pass' as white." If you are white or white-passing, it's important to understand how privilege plays out in your life how you (knowingly or unknowingly) benefit from it, and how those who don't have privilege are negatively impacted. Read the statements below and answer the questions that follow.

1. I can, if I wish, arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.

2. When I am told about our national heritage or about "civilization," I am shown that people of my color made it what it is.

3. I can go into a book shop and count on finding the writing of my race represented, into a supermarket and find the staple foods that fit with my cultural traditions, or into a hairdresser's shop and find someone who can deal with my hair.

4. As a child, I did not have to be educated about systemic racism for my own daily protection.

5. If a traffic cop pulls me over, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.

6. I can be sure that if I need legal or medical help, my race will not work against me.

McIntosh, "White Privilege and Male Privilege."

In what ways do you hold white privilege?

What negative experiences has your privilege protected you from?

What makes you uncomfortable about talking about privilege?



A Closer Look at Microaggressions

A microaggression is a subtle but offensive comment or action directed at a member of a marginalized group, that is often unintentionally offensive or unconsciously reinforces a stereotype. Below are photos from the **#itooamharvard** project, which seeks to highlight microaggressions Black and African American students at Harvard University have faced.

Take a look at the pictures below. For each image, write what you think the implication (or underlying message) of the microaggression is. Then answer the questions that follow.

1



"I don't see color."

2



"You don't sound black...you sound smart."

3



"Never seen BLACK people do that."

How can microaggressions leave a lasting impact on people?

If you hear someone use a microaggression, how can you respond?

