



California Council for the Social Studies
AN AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES

P.O. Box 1187, Weimar, CA 95736
Telephone: (916) 318-6800 Email: info@ccss.org

Our Commitment to Teaching About Racism

June 4, 2020

As educators on the front lines, we are all keenly aware of racism and the many injustices that have occurred in history and continue to occur today. We see it in the students and families we serve every day. The recent horrific death of George Floyd and the ensuing protests are another public reminder of the urgent need for our American society and institutions to address the pain, suffering, and injustices inflicted on under-served groups, Black Americans in particular.

What role can we play, as educators? We are, once again, called upon to provide voice, hope, and support for our students. Culver City Unified School District Superintendent Leslie Lockhart stated, "We have the opportunity to make a difference each day. When we look into our children's eyes, we must reflect on the fact that this child in front of you can grow up to be the victim or the aggressor. Or we can together decide together that our children in front of us are going to be advocates for social justice and champions for change.

Let us rise and stand together under the message of this powerful banner, for our children, for all children everywhere. We must use our breath to honor the memory of those who have had theirs taken from them. Let us remind ourselves of why each and every day of our children's lives are points of promise and hope. Let us remind ourselves that as a community, we have to ensure that their lives, their dreams, and their families are just as important as others' when the world is giving them every reason to believe that they don't."

We are committed as an organization to reflect and act on the ways in which we can work toward greater equality and justice with social studies educators for our students and communities. This important work includes starting courageous conversations that matter toward dismantling systems of oppression, including racism.

Social Studies teachers, particularly through civic education, are best equipped to engage young people in civil dialogue and actions that can reverse this compelling trend of inequity. A list of instructional resources, informative articles, and readings can be found below.

The National Council for the Social Studies has also issued a statement which can be found at <https://www.socialstudies.org/about/ncss-condemns-killing-george-floyd-countless-black-people>

RESOURCES

CCEE and San Diego County Office of Education

- **Designing Distance Learning with an Equity Lens**
<https://tinyurl.com/EquityResources63>
- **Instructional Continuity Learning Considerations and Support for African American Students**
<https://tinyurl.com/SDCOE63-3>

Los Angeles County Office of Education

- **Resources for Students and Adults on Equity, Social Justice, and Engagement**
<https://www.lacoe.edu/Curriculum-Instruction/Equity-Social-Justice-and-Engagement>
- **California Democracy School Online Professional Development Series** (Los Angeles County Office of Education)
Ten online professional development modules provide educators with the knowledge, skills and resources to implement high-quality civic inquiry and investigations in K-12 schools, including videos of actual classroom projects. Three of the modules present example for engaging students in civil dialogue using Socratic Seminar, Philosophical Chairs and Structured Academic Controversy
<https://www.lacoe.edu/Curriculum-Instruction/History-Social-Science/California-Democracy-School/Professional-Development-Videos>

The New York Times

Teaching Ideas and Resources to Help Students Make Sense of the George Floyd Protests

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/03/learning/lesson-plans/teaching-ideas-and-resources-to-help-students-make-sense-of-the-george-floyd-protests.html>

Constitutional Rights Foundation

CivCon – Civil Conversation

The Civil Conversation engages students in close reading and analysis of a text that presents two sides of an issue. Students then participate in a structured small-group discussion about the issue, using evidence from the text. Finally, students reflect on their participation in the conversation, with an emphasis on reaching their own informed conclusions and considering where they found common ground with their classmates. It is intentionally not a debate, but a chance for students to engage in thoughtful dialogue.

<https://www.crf-usa.org/curriculum-library/civil-conversation-and-role-play/curriculum-library>

Facing History and Ourselves

Lessons and discussion points to use with students regarding race and social justice. Their programs help students learn about hatred and bigotry so they can stop them from happening in the future.

<https://www.facinghistory.org>

[Our Collection](#)

Edutopia

Teaching Young Children About Bias, Diversity, and Social Justice - 5 Elementary School Strategies
<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-young-children-social-justice-jinnie-spiegler>

ADL - Anti-Defamation League

Anti-Bias Curriculum Guides - Use our elementary, middle and high school curriculum guides to promote safe, respectful and inclusive classroom environments.

https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/anti-bias-curriculum-guides#.VwQXO_krLcs

Teaching Tolerance

- *Classroom Resources* - LESSONS, LEARNING PLANS
STUDENT TEXTS, STUDENT TASKS, TEACHING STRATEGIES, LEARNING PLAN BUILDER,
FILM KITS, PRINTABLE POSTERS
<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources>
- Teaching About Race, Racism and Police Violence
<https://www.tolerance.org/moment/racism-and-police-violence>

School Library Journal

Social Justice: fifteen titles to address inequity, equality and organizing for young readers
(Classroom Library)

https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=great-books-social-justice-middle-grade&utm_source=editorial&utm_medium=SLJTW&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=articles

KQED

5 Ways to Show Up for Racial Justice Today

<https://www.kqed.org/arts/13881199/5-ways-to-show-up-for-racial-justice-today>

Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter at School

<https://blacklivesmatteratschool.com/teaching-materials/>

Colours of Us

37 Children's Books to help talk about Racism & Discrimination (Classroom Library)

https://coloursofus.com/37-childrens-books-to-help-talk-about-racism-discrimination/?fbclid=IwAR1ohDtmOaKz6UfQ82SwWZtXdCGOsblZap_XGAFAMiUtf7VFiCVrxNWePMU

San Marcos Writing Project/Dr. Nicole Cooke, University of South Carolina

Anti-Racism Resources for All Ages (Padlet)

<https://padlet.com/nicolethelibrarian/nbasekqoazt336co?fbclid=IwAR1DIVv-uOLZtNqiK-trDDmKGyXavFEpOILKbF0ga-2aZ2Z8g132Qy7pBQg>

Chicago Public Library

Anti-Racist Reading List from Ibram X. Kendi

<https://chipublib.bibliocommons.com/list/share/204842963/1357692923>

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Anti Racism for teachers

[Being-antiracist](#)

NMAAHC

[Racialhealinghandbook_p87to94.pdf](#)

SELF-CARE

- [Self-care in the face of racial injustice](#) from Therapy for Black Girls
- [4 Self-Care resources for days when the world is terrible](#) from Colorlines
- [Self-care for people of color after psychological trauma](#) from Just Jasmine
- [Black Lives Matter Meditations for Healing from Racial Trauma](#) from Dr. Candice Nicole

CALL TO ACTION

- Follow Arizona-based [Poder In Action](#) on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) for ways to organize and take action locally.
- Connect with a local chapter of [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#)
- Review [Active Bystander Training](#) from the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Ohio State University
- [75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#) from Medium

YOUTH ACADEMIC, BEHAVIOR, AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

- [PBIS Cultural Responsiveness Field Guide: Resources for Trainers and Coaches](#)
- *The Trevor Project: [Supporting Black LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#)*
- Recorded PBIS Webinar facilitated by Dr. Josh Harrower: [Addressing Equity \(through PBIS\)](#)
- [“Race and Violence Should Be a School-Wide Subject”](#) - Contains resources for school leaders to help develop a community-driven message and a model for discussing race and violence.
- [Don't Discipline Hangry](#) (article)
- ASCD - [How to Be an Antiracist Educator](#)
- [Race & Ethnicity: Teaching Tolerance](#)
- [Racial Equity Tools Glossary](#)
- [“Teaching Young Children About Bias, Diversity, and Social Justice”](#) - helps teach the understanding of differences and social justice through literature, news stories, anti-bias lessons and problem-solving
- [“5 Keys to Challenging Implicit Bias”](#)- guides teachers how to look at and challenge implicit biases in themselves, their colleagues and their schools.
- [“How Does Race Affect a Student's Math Education?”](#) - Dives into a recent study that shows adults “are perpetuating racism in schools” in a way that is shaping students’ interactions and expectations with math
- [“Diversity and Bias Lesson Plans”](#) - K-12 lesson and unit plans for educators that promote critical thinking through the lens of diversity and bias
- [“Curriculum for White Americans to Educate Themselves on Race and Racism — from Ferguson to Charleston”](#) -, this curated list inspired by the [Charleston Syllabus](#) of resources is for those who want to learn more from perspectives “often underrepresented among many white circles.”
- [“First Encounters With Race and Racism: Teaching Ideas for Classroom Conversations”](#)- A lesson plan from Jinnie Spiegler, the director of curriculum at the Anti-Defamation League.
- [The Urgent Need for Anti-Racist Education](#) from Education Week

- [Resources for Talking About Race, Racism, Racialized Violence with Kids](#) from the Center for Racial Justice in Education.
- [Teaching About Race, Racism, and Police Violence](#) from Teaching Tolerance
- [Why Teaching Black Lives Matter Matters | Part I | from Teaching Tolerance](#)
- [Teaching Resources for Black Lives Matter School Week of Action](#) from D.C. Area Educators for Social Justice
- [Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom](#) by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

PROFESSIONAL READING

- **For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood... and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education (Race, Education, and Democracy) by Chris Emdin**
Merging real stories with theory, research, and practice, a prominent scholar offers a new approach to teaching and learning for every stakeholder in urban education
- **Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Tatum**
Helps dissect the dynamics of race in America.
- **Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom from Young Children at School by Carla Shalaby**
First hand look at school, through the eyes of those that are labeled a problem.
- **A Search Past Silence: The Literacy of Young Black Men by David Kirkland**
A call to action, to listen to the voices of Black youth and reimagine being literate in a multicultural, democratic society.
- **White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo**
Looks at counterproductive reactions of white people when discussing racism
- **Teaching for Black Lives by Dyan Watson, Jesse Hagopian and Wayne Au**
A look into how we understand race in K-12 classrooms
- **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander**
A perspective about the country's redesign of a racial caste.

LEARN MORE

BOOKS TO TEACH

[Early Childhood Anti-Bias Education Booklists](#)

- ***The Hate U Give*** by Angie Thomas
- ***All American Boys*** by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
A look at a specific instance of police brutality from the perspectives of two high school classmates
- ***Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Méndez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*** by Duncan Tonatiuh
Almost 10 years before Brown v. Board of Education, Sylvia Méndez and her parents helped end school segregation in California.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- Parent: [How to Teach Your Kids to Fight Hate: An Age-by-Age Guide \(parents.com\)](#)
- [Ten Quick Ways To Analyze Children's Books For Sexism And Racism](#)
- [Teachers Must Hold Themselves Accountable for Dismantling Racial Oppression](#)
- [Black Lives Matter at School: Teaching Materials](#)
- [31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance](#)

WEBSITES:

- [Affirming Black Lives Without Inducing Trauma](#) from Teaching Tolerance
- [What Matters](#) from Black Lives Matter
- [Coverage of Criminal Justice](#) on Colorlines
- [Let's Talk! Discussing Whiteness](#) from Teaching Tolerance

[Anti-racism for White People: White People, You Gotta Do Work Now](#) from Awesomely Luvvie