

CSD Course Curriculum Summary: SEE Equity

SEE Equity is a Wellness Wednesday online initiative developed through a collaboration with our Equity department and Dr. Lori Watson. She has previously facilitated full-day learning sessions for the members and staff advisors of *Students Organized for Anti-Racism* (SOAR) at DHS for the past two years and she has presented at high schools across the country as a part of her work with *Courageous Conversations about Race* (CCAR). Educators trained by Dr. Watson will facilitate SEE Equity and local CSD CCAR Affiliates, who have completed over 50-hours of racial equity training, will serve as support resources for the work.

Goals

SEE Equity's key goals are:

- to help students develop racial consciousness and cross-cultural awareness
- to empower students with the confidence and tools to discuss race and
- to engage students in identifying and implementing ways to be anti-racist.

Purpose

If CSD is to be a system truly committed to equity, the time for learning and change is now. Thus, in SEE Equity sessions during Wellness Wednesdays, students will not only learn about racial inequity but also identify steps to challenge racial inequity. During SEE Equity, students will be:

- S - Scholars - students in grades 6-12
- E - Who are Examining - reflecting upon their own understandings about race and developing deeper understandings about the social construct of race, systemic racism, and other related topics (prejudice, bias, microaggressions).
- E - And who are Engaging
- Equity - learning and using skills to interrupt racism through put anti-racist practices into action such as bystander intervention, eliminating cyber hate, and identifying microaggressions.

Content

SEE Equity content includes nine lessons and a final student capstone project. **Lessons 1-3** will start September 16th and take place over the next three Wellness Wednesdays.

Each class meeting follows a particular sequence.

- Students will view one of three parts of the film *Race: The Power of an Illusion*.
- Before watching, students will respond to "Before Viewing" questions. These are prompts designed to help students become more conscious of the ideas they hold as they enter each part of the film.
- After having watched the film, students will respond to reflection questions and be given "Activity Suggestions" These are ideas that can be tried after viewing as a way to delve more deeply into key concepts and a way to examine how prior beliefs were challenged by the film.

Lesson 1: *The Difference Between Us* – here, students will respond to the "Before Viewing" questions, they will next view part one of the film *Race: The Power of an Illusion* and conclude by extending their learning with a closing assignment. Part one of the film examines how recent scientific discoveries have toppled the concept of biological race.

Lesson 2: *The Story We Tell* - here, students will respond to the "Before Viewing" questions, they will next view part two of the film *Race: The Power of an Illusion* and conclude by extending their learning with a closing assignment. Part two of the film uncovers the roots of the race as a concept, including the 19th-century science that falsely legitimated it and the hold it has gained over our minds.

Lesson 3: *The House We Live In* – for this portion of the video, students will respond to the "Before Viewing" questions, they will next view part three of the film *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, and conclude by extending their learning with a closing assignment. Part three of the film focuses not on individual behaviors and attitudes, but on how our institutions shape and create race, giving different groups vastly unequal life chances. It concludes by answering the question, “*why can’t we just get rid of race*”.

SEE Equity lessons 4-9 will begin in spring 2021. Each class meeting will follow a typical sequence.

- Introduction
- An introduction to or reminder of CCAR’s Compass & Parameters
- Video clips
- Activities/Discussion
- Closing (which may include a verbal debrief or journaling)
- Home study activity suggestions

Lesson 4: *Let’s Talk About Race* - where students examine basic definitions and understandings of race.

Lesson 5: *Race in Your Life* - where students examine their own racial identity and reflect upon how that identity impacts their everyday experiences.

Lesson 6: *The Social Construction of Racial Biases & Beliefs* - students will examine the fallacy of race as a physical entity and discuss the ways in which it has been socially constructed.

Lesson 7: *Microaggressions* - Will examine various types of Microaggressions and explore how students can avoid engaging in them.

Lesson 8: Examines *Cyber Hate & Social Media Responsibility*, and

Lesson 9: *Making & Taking Steps* - In which students tell stories of their own racialized experiences and reflect upon ways in which they can make tangible steps toward Anti-Racism.

Engagement

We encourage parents to make SEE Equity a family experience. Families may benefit from discussing the pre-questions, watching the film, and discussing the post-questions, together. Students will also be encouraged to engage in family discussions regarding the issues and topics addressed in classes 4-9.

As the executive producer of *Race*, Larry Alderman states,

Our hope is that this series can help us all navigate through our myths and misconceptions, and scrutinize some of the assumptions we take for granted. In that sense, the real subject of the film is not so much race but the viewer, or more precisely, the notions about race we all hold.

We hope this series can help clear away the biological underbrush and leave starkly visible the underlying social, economic, and political conditions that disproportionately channel advantages and opportunities. Perhaps then we can shift the conversation from discussing diversity and respecting cultural difference to building a more just and equitable society.