

the Change Agent

An Adult Education Magazine for Social Justice





Using the "Talking about Race" Issue in the Classroom



New England Literacy Resource Center



changeagent.nelrc.org

Contact People

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Webinar Tools

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Welcome to our Special Guests from Pima Community College Adult Basic Education in Arizona



The Change Agent is available in print (individual or bulk subscriptions), and selected articles are available in audio





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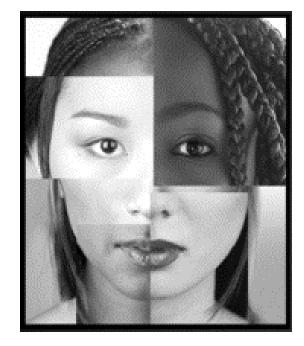
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In this webinar, you will:

- A. Familiarize you with CCR-aligned lesson ideas from this issue.
- B. Hear from our special guests a student, teachers, and a student leadership council facilitator about how using *The Change Agent*.
 - 1. engages students with its peer-written content that is relevant to adult learners,
 - 2. provides inspiring and interesting content for teaching basic skills
 - 3. helps develop leadership in a variety of ways

Warm-Up

- how do you identify by race?
- how are you perceived?
- does the identity of the instructor impact the teaching environment with respect to race-related issues? If so, how?



First, I am going to show you a few specific pieces from the Race issue. These pieces are:



- Designed to teach basic skills while engaging the learner in something that matters.
- Help teachers make sure they are addressing CCR skills.
- Provide opportunities for critical thinking and a sense of personal agency.

We Were on Our Honeymoon But No One Believed We Were Paying Customers

Roxana Martinez

In June of 2012, my husband and I, who are from El Salvador, went to Miami for our honeymoon. We spent two weeks in a hotel there. Sadly, the hotel staff did not treat us fairly.

On several occasions the security guards questioned us about our stay at the hotel. Several times, they asked to see our identification and asked us about our room number. They acted as if we could not possibly be paying customers. When we sat in the dining room, the waiter served everyone except us. He totally ignored us. We were both upset because he was discriminating against us.

We were sad that the hotel staff discriminated against us on our honeymoon. It is an example of racism. We were treated differently because of our race. In my opinion, racism in the United States continues to be a big problem.



Roxana Martinez is an ESOL student in Fayetteville, AR.

Evaluate the Text

What argument is Roxana making? _____

What details does she provide to back it up? List three details here:



Do you think she makes her case well? If yes, why? If no, how could she

Black People & Institutional Racism

Lisa Gimbel

Before you read... 1.Think about the vocabulary: institutional, suspend, expel.



- 2. Discuss what we mean by "institutions." Some institutions are: schools, the media, prisons, the courts, and work. What are some other examples of institutions in the U.S.?
- 3. Look at the pictures and skim the headings. Every heading says "...while black." Why?



1. Being in Preschool While Black

Black children are punished much more than white children. For example, 50% of children suspended in preschool are black, even though only 18% of children in preschool are black.



2. Being in School While Black

Forty percent of children expelled from elementary, middle school, and high school are black. Unfair punishment gets more serious, too. The schools refer students to the police! Sixty-five percent of children referred to the police are Black or Latino, according to the Department of Education.



3. Doing a Science Project While Black

Research shows 75% of all people in the U.S. have racial bias. They automatically connect black people with "dangerous or aggressive" behavior. For example, Kiera Wilmot (picture below) is a 16-year old girl who lives in Florida. She was arrested at school when the top came off of her

chemistry experiment and smoke came out. No people or things were hurt, but the police arrested her and took her away in handcuffs. She was suspended from school for 10 days and charged with two felonies.





4. Driving While Black

Blacks and whites break traffic laws equally. They are not arrested equally, though. For example, on the New Jersey Turnpike, 15% of drivers are black, but 40% of people stopped for breaking traffic laws are black. It's worse, though. Seventythree percent of people arrested on the New Jersey Turnpike are black.

5. Getting a Call-Back While Black

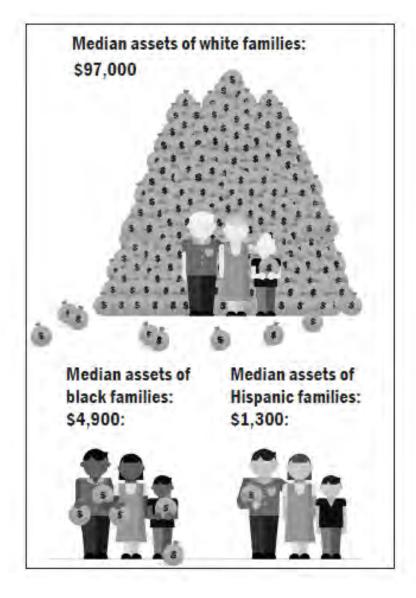
Black people who graduated from college have difficulty finding jobs twice as often as white people. Why? One reason is that people with black-sounding names have to send out almost twice as many applications as



people with white-sounding names, just to get a response to their resume. After finally getting an interview, black people are called back to talk with the company again only 14% of the time. White people are invited back 34% of the time. Remember how the schools and police work together? When a person has a criminal record, it's even harder to get a job, especially if a person is black.

6. Trying to Survive While Black

Is this just a personal problem? No. The average black or Latino family has less cars, property, and money than the average white family. Without th assets white families have, many black families have to rely on landlords, banks, and credit card companies. These institutions also work against black people and people of color. It is difficult to escape institutional racism. The cycle continues.



After You Read...

- What argument is the writer making?
- Which statistics are especially interesting? Why?
- Do some research to find facts that further support the author's claims or disprove her claims.
- In the introduction, the author says that institutional racism impacts basic human rights. Use the text to explain how that could be true.

Defending my Son against Racism

Daffeh Fatou

When my son went to public school, some children tore his books and bullied him. They made fun of his name and called him an "African Boodie Scratcher"! One boy kept making fun of his name and changing the letters around to something very rude. The teacher didn't do anything. She said that my son was being a troublemaker. But he never started any of the trouble!

It happened more than 10 times. We had many meetings with the teacher about this problem. She never did anything to help. If this same

Confronting the teacher and the principal was hard. But it was even harder for me to see what my son was going through.

thing happened with other people, I think the teacher would have done something more quickly.

Finally, we had a meeting that included the teacher and the principal. The principal told the teacher that she



Before this happened, I always believed whatever a teacher said. That was my mistake. I even decided to volunteer at that school, to see what was going on there. That's how I realized that my son was being bullied and that the teacher's story was wrong. I became a Learning L

Write to Daffeh!

- In your letter, notice how this experience helped her grow and change as a parent.
- Acknowledge the efforts she made on behalf of her son. Base your observations on the text.
- Share with Daffeh you experience of advocating for your child or someone else you know. How did it change you or affect you?
- In your writing, use temporal language (first, later, finally) and transition words (consequently, furthermore). See p. 49 for more ideas.

Why I Don't Watch TV News It might seem extreme, but I don't watch the news it might seem extreme, but i don t watch ue news on IV anymore. I've noticed that the media seems David Diaz on 1 v anymore, 1 ve nouceu una ure meuna se to be filled with negative accounts of African to be filled with negative accounts of American Americans and Hispanics. I don't want my young son, lyzeah, to be exposed to these hateful ac-

nus. I believe that no human being is born faci believe that no human being is born rac-ist. People learn these behaviors because they are taught to us. Before I got full custody of my son, ungen to us, person + 800 mm custory or my some I noticed that when we were out in Public, if an counts. African American, or anyone with a dark complexion would walk I believe that no by Jyzeah would stop being talkative. human being is born On his face, I could racist. People learn see fear. He would these behaviors quickly come closer because they are taught to us. my hand. As time on his behavior. I had a talk with him. I asked him on ms benavior. 1 nad a taik with him. 1 asked him if he felt uncomfortable around African Americans

and his response was, "Yes."

no longer lives in him.

David noticed

I no response was, 100. I don't know where or how he picked up this

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in social surges class 4 have seen nearing about the Declaration of Independence and h

The media has the right to _____

fear towards a specific race. The media may have

er to become independent and give future generations great opportunities. I've learned about the first ten Amendments to the Constitu First Amendy That means comments those con to speak right to D netic force and grip mear not passed, I picked up in U

rear uswards a specific race. The media may have had something to do with it. I'm not sure. But I an nau somerung to ao with it. 1 m not sure, but i an grateful he is now in my custody, because that fe When I pulled in to the church parking lot and got out of my bruck with my wife, I began to rehearse this offense over and over in my mind to the point that I wanted to explode. I needed to talk to someone, so I talked with my pastor and told him what had happened. Once we were done talking, I felt better and I was able to let it go. This situation helped me to grow up and mature

it personally. I allowed it rob me of my joy, peace,

officer was singling

There are no winners causing trouble. I ing the law or even believe he did this

church, a police officer got behind my truck and began to run my plates. Then he followed me to church, trying to pull me over. I wasn't break-

police officer treated me with a disrespectful atti-On a Sunday morning, while on my way to

Racism has been a divider among people for many years. I have seen people of color treated like they are less than human. I have seen white people by to put themselves above the law and above other people. I have experienced it for myself. A white

Joseph Fimbres

tota, The

Black Lives Do Matter

In this essay, I'm going to explain why I think the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement is a good thing. It keeps the police in check and reminds them they are not above the law. I also think there needs to be a voice out there to stand up for those who have been wrongfully murdered by the police. Lastly, I think the BLM movement might, like

Jeff Cunningham

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believe whole-

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other mass movements in the past, have enough **Division among Us**

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they are all powerful until we stand up together and demand that they be held accountable.

Many Voices More Powerful than One One person's voice usually doesn't hold much weight, but when people unite many voices into one, they have more power. For example, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where police have a history of killing unarmed victims, people in the commu-

Matter vs. All Lives Matter

r movement emphasize black lives instead of all lives? osite, "When Black people get free, everybody gets free. an your life isn't important-it means that Black lives, ue within White supremacy, are important to your liberalack people and our allies to take up the call that Black g Black lives are more important than other lives, or that red and oppressed in various ways. We remain in active I people who are fighting for their liberation and we know that

- from <blacklivesmatter.com>

LEVEL

7-9

The only thing that racism brings is division,

strife, hate, and bitterness. Clearly, then, there is

no room for love, unity, and friendships among

In conclusion, even though there are still

people out in the world that live this way, I believe

Josephir minutes is a uscu suuterik al mina voilege nuon Lukuous in Tucson, Artzona. He and his wife are involved in Celebrate Reni nosuri, micuna, ne anu na mic are momen ni venanom no coveny a Christian based 12 step program. Joseph wants to use curery, a versuarroased acoup program, soopprimaries to use his GED credential to increase his opportunities to help people

that if I walk in love, I can lead by example and help break the cycle of racism where I live. I pray that other people will do the same.

a people and as a nation.

Joseph Fimbres is a GED student at Pima Oollege Adult Education

AFTER YOU READ, COMPLETE THE SENTENCES BELOW TO DEMONSTRATE COMPREHENSION: Joseph feels that racism causes Now: write about a strategy you use to return to a feeling of peace after being attacked.

AFTER YOU READ, COMPLETE THE SER Now: write about a strategy you spiritually. God used it as a character-builder in my life. In my past, this would have gone a totally

situation. that this police

on either side of racism; it's a lose-lose panic. I felt annoyed it boosts false pride and destroys his integrity. We as a nation under God are bringing division among ourselves, and we are hurting ourselves as

all mankind equally in His image. There are no winners on either side of racism; it's a lose-lose situation. Any man, regardless of race, loses his God-given identity when he chooses to act in a racist way because

What do you think?

- Use the chat box to share some of your thoughts about how it might be challenging to bring these topics into the classroom.
- What ideas do you have for teaching with these materials?



You Want Me to Do What?



Yes, We Can Talk about Race in the Classroom!

Race can be a hard topic, but it is important. When we talk about race, we might remember painful experiences. But we might also be inspired by people's courage. Talking about race helps us understand history and current events in the U.S. It helps us support our children and our communities. It helps us build community in the classroom. This ABE class at El Rio Learning Center in Tucson, AZ, studied race. Here is what students said about it:

Racism in History and Today

I first started to hear about race when I came to the U.S. It is hard to see our community and our people suffer because of race. Racism started a long time ago — with slavery and then segregation. Today, racism continues. I turn on the TV, and I hear about race all the time. I don't like

We Need to Teach Our Children

We need to teach our children to treat everyone the same. We want them to see everyone as an equal. In America, talking about race can be risky, but we should do it anyway so that we can all learn to fight racism.

-- Matias Rodriguez

Matias

- Having that hard conversation in the classroom. How can teachers learn from the incident Matias describes?
- "Existing while Black" (p. 5 of *The Change Agent*) offers an explanation.



Writing about Race

Writing about Race

Hazel Diana Robin

A Note Before We Start After re-reading my first draft of bin article, I realized that in the hope of being brir Ibadi and/ventently made the all or the bind and/ventently made the all or ugh this particular lesson went i all, talking about concepts of race om has had its challeny I'm having to look at al w, like how to best facilitate us in class and how to make at to students wanting hennore, Tm no i disconfort and incornity race. I am left wondering, y eturn to class. "Was it the ontent was facilitated, or ip in their life?" Anothe pass their DNA on from one generation to the for met "Have I gotten next, comes are made or acredit state of the second state of the information about the organism. Genes are own this road? Dr ther questions and d and there are no neal that said, please rea Gathering Evide

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And addressing academic needs at the same time

Genes, Race, and Difference Some Science Background

What makes humans different from All plants and animals are made of billions of tiny

DNA

Race

Nucleotides

Gene

Chromosome

What is race?

cells. Inside each human cell, there are normally People say that race can be determined from skin 23 pairs of chromosomes, and these chromosomes color, hair type, the shape of the nose, etc. These contain deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). The buildconor, mur type, use snape of the table of the repre-features are determined by genes, but they repreing blocks of DNA are nucleotides. Nucleotides sent a tiny fraction of our genetic make-up. Acconsist of four bases: adenine (A), cytosine (C), sent a tity traction to our general many up of bits and cording to PBS, "Our DNA is made up of bits and guanine (G), and thymine (T). All living things pieces of DNA from millions of ancestors, dating back thousands of generations - all the way to pass area DIVA on House one generation to the next. Genes are made of DNA. DNA contains all me incornation about the organism, secure are small sections of DNA that instruct the organism far more alike than we are (

Africa. We all share most of the same ancestry. Autora, we an share more or the outer marked of the Humans are 99.9% identical genetically. We are

Now Try th Match the term on the left with

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tetic diffe cen groups The cial and

on the right The building blocks of DNA: includes adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C), and Thymine (4), guarante (o), cycoante (o), and cycoante (o), the order of these tiny units is the way (T). The order of these tiny units is the way DNA codes for genes. Each small section of DNA; determines such characteristics as eye color, the shape of blood cells, and whether the right or left side

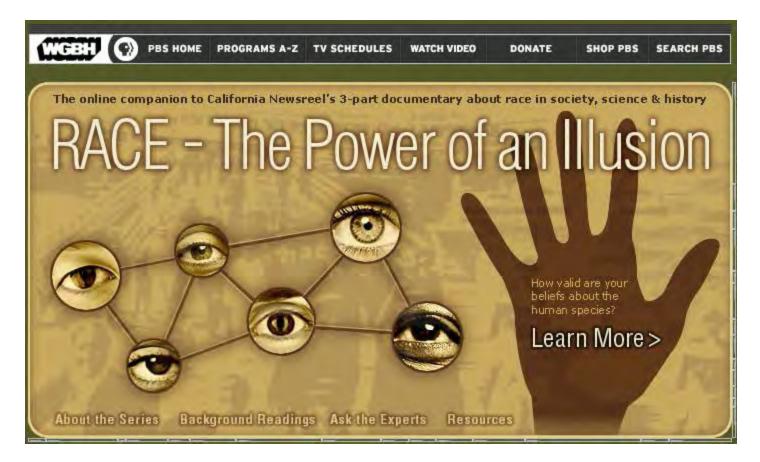
The code for all the traits in the human body: consists of millions, even billions of tiny units linked together in a chain

Structure that contains genetic information A modern concept that claims to sort people according to biological characteristics but is

This 5-page packet by Hazel Robin includes handouts and links for students to prepare to write about race. Available at http://changeagent.nelrc.org/iss ues/issue-42/ (if you have an online subscription).

- Gather evidence and information about race first.
- Share with students what academic skills they will be learning, including:
 - Conducting research
 - History
 - Science
 - Transferring knowledge

www.pbs.org/race



Before Studying African American History

vimeo.com/40630589



JASON: My stereotype about African Americans was negative.



AMAR: The media shows you that black people are gangsters and they carry guns.

After Studying African American History



JANE: My white real estate agent told me [that finding] a location without black people was the most important factor.



MILA: When I came here, I couldn't understand blacks. I thought, "Why are they talking about racism too much?"



ALEX (studied the prison system): I was shocked when I was doing research.



ASTER: Black people contributed to America. [They] are doctors, scientists, professors. I was so surprised.



JACKIE (studied black wall street): What [black people] have done – they never talk about in history.



SARINA: If you want to live in the U.S. or study in the U.S., I think [you] must study the history of African Americans.

How "talking about race" develops student leadership.

- Rhonda's story in Student Leadership Council.
- "Barrios and Barriers" a Tucson Civil rights history presentation:
 - ✓ Facilitation skills
 - ✓ Empathy
 - ✓ Compassionate listening
 - ✓ Civil dialogue
 - ✓ Community connections





Write for The Change Agent

- "Call for Articles" includes engaging and relevant writing prompts. The theme of our next issue is "Transportation."
- Students can write for a national magazine.
- Their story will be read by peers.
- They will experience "the editorial process," including revisions, etc.
- Next writing deadline is May 6, 2016.

Download "Call for Articles" at: http://changeagent.nelrc.org/write-for-us/

Use the "Call for Articles" in Instruction

- Show copies of *The Change Agent* to students so they have a feel for the magazine that they'd be writing for.
- Allow them to peruse the magazine. Ask them to share what they notice about it, including:
 - Articles are of different lengths and targeted towards different levels.
 - Articles are written by other adult learners.
 - The content all pertains to a certain theme.
 - The magazine includes learners from the whole country.
 - What else might they notice?
- Before handing out the "Call for Articles," ask students, "What do you think would be in a magazine that chose as its theme: *Transportation?*"

Prepare your students to write multiple drafts; encourage peer editing.

Students whose pieces are accepted receive a \$50 stipend.

Warning! We get 100s of submissions and can only accept about 30. Respond to just one or two of the prompts.

> Speak from the heart! Write about something that matters.

Submitting Articles to The Change Agent



Each submission includes all relevant contact information for the student and the teacher.



Please email submissions as attachments.

Subscribing to The Change Agent







The Change Agent provides socially relevant content, powerful student writing that inspires discussion, and ready-to-use, CCR-aligned lesson plans – all oriented toward a multi-level audience. Subscribe now and receive a new issue every March and September. Include the online option in your order and receive full access to all of our back issues as well as our issue extras and growing collection of audio articles. See sample pages and sample audio.



Individual

Get 1 copy \$12 for 1 year, or \$20 for 2 years Electronic Access PDFs of all the magazines, audio, etc. \$20 per teacher for 1 year, or \$16 per teacher for 25 or more teachers Bulk Get a set of 25 \$85 for 1 year, or \$160 for 2 years

Finally...

A recording of this webinar will be available at changeagent.nelrc.org

Questions or comments? Contact Cynthia Peters <u>cpeters@worlded.org</u>, Matias Rodriguez at <u>mrodriguez138@pima.edu</u>, Hazel Robin at Hazel Robin <u>drobin@pima.edu</u>, Kathy Budway at <u>kbudway@pima.edu</u>, and Mireya Escamilla at <u>mmgomez@pima.edu</u>.



Thank you for participating!



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