JUST IN TIME EQUITY DIALOGUES FOR YOUTH

Lessons designed to foster honest conversations with youth about social justice issues

— JUST IN TIME AUTHORS

A timely and relevant resource for youth development workers

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Just in Time Race Equity Dialogues for Youth

Introduction

The Equity Guided Dialogues are a series of lessons designed to bring youth together to deliberate, reflect, and take action on social justice issues. Each guide focuses on issues that investigate systematic and structural injustices using multiple perspectives that lead to critical awareness, deep reflection, and self-awareness.

Extension educators play a crucial role in helping youth talk openly about the historical roots and contemporary manifestations of social inequality and discrimination. Being able to help young people understand about topics such as racism, implicit biases, and discrimination requires facilitating difficult conversations and providing youth with information that will help them to learn and grow. As we continue to prepare youth for a more diverse and global economy, we must ensure that we provide them with the cultural skills and knowledge that are currently needed and will be necessary for the future. Both adults and youth must challenge themselves to learn and grow through these conversations to be better prepared for a more culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse world.

Format

Guided dialogue is a form of discussion aimed at exploring issues through deliberative and honest questions. The purpose is not so much to solve a problem or resolve an issue to explore the topic through current and historical information and examples. The guides provide a brief overview of social justice issues facing Americans and outline approaches to understanding the topic. The guides do not advocate a particular approach or solution, but rather seek to provide a framework for the facilitator to help youth carefully examine the issue, weigh costs and consequences, and discuss possible courses of action.

How to Use the Guided Dialogues

Each lesson has been set up to guide the facilitator through a workshop, club meeting, or independent session dealing with culturally (sensitive) relevant social justice content. The format is composed of leveled open-ended questions designed to lead a conversation. The intended audience and time required is a suggestion. Facilitators can adjust the time as appropriate. Each lesson lists the intended objectives for youth, a
situation statement, and informational resources for the facilitator to use to prepare for the conversation.

The lessons are built upon the theory of Focused Conversation, which includes Objective, Reflective, Interpretive, and Decisional level questions. There is no right or wrong answer for the questions; however, youth will be guided to explore, discuss, and analyze a social issue. Also included in the lessons is an area for the facilitator to make notes on the topic in preparation for the discussion. There is also an evaluation area the facilitator can use to plan how to measure if the youth met the listed objectives. The evaluation process can be informal (i.e., questions, thumbs up, etc.) or a formal survey tool. At the end of the lesson youth and facilitators are encouraged to reflect on the lesson. This section can be used to make notes after the lesson concludes. It may include final thoughts, action steps, youth reactions, etc. We hope that these lessons will be a starting point for youth to learn about social justice issues using informed focused conversation. Facilitators are encouraged to use the lessons to create a safe space for youth to be open, honest and grow in 4-H.

Lessons

The topics of the first set of lessons are exploratory in nature and designed to facilitate and foster conversations on current issues grounded in history. Future lessons will be developed and will focus on social action and advocacy after exploring these topics.

- Guided Dialogue 1: All Lives Matter- Right or Wrong?
- Guided Dialogue 2: What is Bias?
- Guided Dialogue 3: Is Fair and Equal the Same Thing?
- Guided Dialogue 5: Does Racism Still Exist? Increasing Understanding of Systematic Racism
- Guided Dialogue 6: Why Do People Riot to Get Their Point Across? Understanding Civil Unrest
Tips for facilitating healthy conversations

- We encourage setting ground rules for these difficult conversations to ensure that all youth’s comments are valued and heard.
- Acknowledge upfront that the conversations may be difficult, but we are all here to learn and grow *with and from* one another.
- There is no right or wrong answer but remain respectful if you do disagree with someone’s comments.
- Set social norms to be used during the discussion
  - One person speaks at a time
  - No name-calling
  - Only use correct social terms in conversations
- Be positive
- Be honest
Key Terms ¹

- **Culture**: The shared experiences of people, including their languages, values, customs, beliefs and more. It also includes worldviews, ways of knowing, and ways of communicating. Culture is dynamic, fluid, and reciprocal. Elements of culture are passed on from generation to generation, but culture also changes from one generation to the next (American Evaluation Association 2011; Deen, Huskey & Parker, 2015).

- **Culturally Relevant Pedagogy**: "A pedagogy that empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to impart knowledge, skills and attitudes" (Ladson-Billings, 1994, p. 17-18).

- **Diversity**: Differences among people with respect to age, socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, physical and mental ability, race, sexual orientation, spiritual practices, and other human differences (Deen, Huskey & Parker, 2015).

- **Efficacy/Agency**: A person's belief in their own value and ability to make a difference in their community— that can lead to action (Fields & Nathaniel, 2015; Niblett, 2017).

- **Equity**: Policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messages that are representative of all members of society, such that each member has access to resources that eliminate differential outcomes by group identity (Niblett, 2017).

- **Inclusion**: A state of being valued, respected and supported. Inclusion authentically puts the concept and practice of diversity into action by creating an equitable environment where the richness of ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives are harnessed (Hudson, 2011; Baltimore Racial Justice, 2016).

- **Injustice**: Unequal treatment wherein the rights of a person or a group of people are ignored or restricted (Sensoy & DiAngelo, 2012).

- **Marginalization**: To relegate a person or group of people to a position of marginal power within a society (Merriam-Webster, 2018).

- **Oppression**: A set of policies, practices, norms traditions, definitions and barriers which "function to exploit one social group to the benefit of another social group" (Sensoy & DiAngelo, 2012, p. 39).

- **Privilege**: The "rights, advantages, and protections enjoyed by some at the expense of and beyond the rights, advantages, and protections available to others" (Sensoy & DiAngelo, 2012, p. 39).

¹ Key terms are adapted from the 4-H Social Justice Youth Development: A Guide for Youth Development Professionals (Fields, 2019)
- **Social Capital** - The network of relationships and resources that empowers communities to solve problems. The conditions of social capital are inclusive of trust, engagement, networks and agency (Calvert, Emery & Kinsey, 2013).

- **Social Justice** - A vision of a society wherein the distribution of resources, opportunity, societal benefits and protection is equitable.
Guided Dialogue 1

All Lives Matter – Right or Wrong?

Author: Vernelle Mitchell-Hawkins, University of Maryland Extension

Intended Audience: Youth and adults

Time Required: 1 hour

Dialogue Objectives:
- Extend thinking and learning capacity
- Make learning meaningful
- Make communication in groups effective
- Help prevent and solve problems
- Strengthen the effectiveness of evaluation

Learning Objectives:
- Understand the purpose of civil rights organizations
- Understand the intent of the Black Lives Matter movement
- Understand our reactions to cultural injustices

Background/Situation

Technology has enabled societies across the world to connect at a faster rate than ever before. Global attention of a local issue often highlights the fact that larger issues such as racism are a global concern. Today we will talk about a movement that started in the United States and has spread all over the world. We will talk about differing life experiences and how we communicate the importance of life.

The Conversation

Engage: (Grabber/Hook to open the conversation)

- SHARE the news article headline, “Walmart: ‘All Lives Matter’ bumper sticker is offensive” attached.
- Give participants a few minutes to review it without speaking.
Objective Questions (factual observations related to the topic)

- What do you see in the headline?
- What words are used by the news outlet?
- Is there anything about this that gets your attention?
- What do you see in the photo of the bumper sticker?

Reflective Questions (Get them to think, internalize)

- What did you think about this news headline?
- What does this message mean to you?
- When you look at the photo, what do you think about?
- What is the purpose of the bumper sticker? What does it say to you?
- If you saw this on the car of someone on the road, what would you think? What would you do?
- If your cultural group was NOT included on this bumper sticker and you saw this on a car, what would you think? How would you feel?

Interpretive Questions (Relate the topic to the larger picture)

- Do you think Wal-Mart was being sensitive to its consumers by blocking the bumper sticker? Why or why not?
- What message does this bumper sticker send to the community when posted on vehicles?
- Is this message important to have as a bumper sticker?
- SHARE the article, “Is the ‘All Lives Matter’ Slogan Racist?” from Psychology Today.
  - What viewpoints did the author share about the slogan “All Lives Matter”?
  - After reading the article, did your view on the headline change?
  - How do you think this bumper sticker affects other cultures?
  - Wal-Mart reversed its original decision to allow the bumper sticker to be sold to the public. Was this the right choice?

Decisional Questions (Now what? So what?)

- What other information is needed about this topic?
- Is it important to educate others about this issue? Why or why not?
- What can we do about this issue?
Closing
Fill in the blank for me. “This has been a ______________ conversation.” Now that we have talked about this topic it can be a starting point for moving forward. What can I do next to make an impact on my life? What can I do next to make an impact in my community?

Additional Resources

Civil dialogue resources: https://civildialogue.extension.org

Diversity & inclusion curriculum: https://shop4-h.org/collections/diversity-inclusion-curriculum

4-H Cultural Life program example: https://extension.umd.edu/prince-georges-county/4-h-youth-development/4-h-cultural-life-program

Evaluation (Tool Used)

Reflections on the Dialogue (by facilitator)

References


Walmart: 'All Lives Matter' bumper sticker is offensive

Opinion By | Fox News
Guided Dialogue 2

What is Bias?

Author: Vernelle Mitchell-Hawkins, University of Maryland Extension

Intended Audience: Youth (Intermediates/Teens)

Time Required: 1 hour

**Dialogue Objectives:**
- Extend thinking and learning capacity
- Make learning meaningful
- Make communication in groups effective
- Help prevent and solve problems
- Strengthen the effectiveness of evaluation

**Learning Objectives:**
- Participants will be able to recognize implicit bias
- Participants will understand the concept of implicit bias
- Participants will be able to explore alternatives to implicit bias in a community

**Background/Situation**
As a society, bias is a condition that can cause harm to its members even if unintentional. This discussion will explore BIAS as a term and its impacts on consumers as a collective and as individuals.

**The Conversation**

*Engage (Grabber/Hook to open the conversation)*

Today we are going to discuss how companies can shape public opinion. Do you ever think about why you like Coke over Pepsi? Name-brands over non-name brands? Marketing may be what determines what you think you like. Let’s find out!

**Objective Questions (Factual observations related to the topic)**
- SHARE Aunt Jemima label
- What do you see?
- Do you notice anything in particular about the package? The product?
- What do you know about the product? The contents? The company? The label?
How long has this product been on the market? Does that fact matter?

**Reflective Questions** *(Get them to think, internalize)*

- What do you think about when you see this bottle?
- What do you think about when you see the syrup bottle now?
- Have your views on the syrup changed? Why or why not?
- Why would the packaging of syrup be something a manufacturer wants to change in response to racial concerns?
- How do you think other cultures feel when they see this bottle of syrup and know what its origins are?

**Interpretive Questions** *(Relate the topic to the larger picture)*

- What was this really about?
- Are you familiar with the term IMPLICIT BIAS?
- “Implicit bias is when a person makes decisions or takes action towards a group automatically and unintentionally; judgements may not be fact based.”
- Can you think of other examples of things that may cause an implicit bias?
- Do you have any similar experience with implicit bias?
- Did anything seem new or surprising to you?
- Do you think you have an implicit bias towards something? How did you feel once you recognized it?
- Do you think there are implicit biases in our community? If so, what are they? Who is affected? How are they affected?

**Decisional Questions** *(Now what? So what?)*

- What else do we need to know about this subject?
- What do you think you as an individual should do with this information?
- What are the next steps for this group to help our community?

**Closing**

Fill in the blank for me. “This has been a ____________ conversation.” Now that we
have talked about this topic it can be a starting point for moving forward. What can I do next to make an impact on my life? What can I do next to make an impact in my community?

Evaluation (Tool used)

Additional Resources

National 4-H working group: https://access-equity-belonging.extension.org

Resources for teachers on bias and racism:
  ● https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/tackling-implicit-bias
  ● https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/is-implicit-bias-racist

Additional background and opinion on Aunt Jemima:
  ● https://world.wng.org/content/a_farewell_to_aunt_jemima

Reflections on the Dialogue (by the facilitator)

References:


Guided Dialogue 3

Is Fair and Equal the Same Thing?

Author: Vernelle Mitchell-Hawkins, University of Maryland Extension

Intended Audience: Youth and adults

Time Required: 1 hour

Dialogue Objectives:

- Extend thinking and learning capacity
- Make learning meaningful
- Make communication in groups effective
- Help prevent and solve problems
- Strengthen the effectiveness of evaluation

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will be able to evaluate a media source for factual validity.
- Participants will be able to make a decision about media usage of cultural identity based on evaluation process.
- Participants will evaluate the community to make decisions about reverse discrimination.

Background/Situation:

Many youth may have experienced a situation where programs/services/goods are offered to people based on cultural identity. This discussion will explore the implications of such situations on youth.

The Conversation

Engage (Grabber/Hook to open the conversation)

Today we will discuss a concept that youth have said for many generations: “That’s Not Fair.” We discuss today if FAIR and EQUAL are the same. There are programs and services in our community that are directed to one group or another. We will look at this issue – let’s begin.

- SHARE the attached comic reprinted in the LA Times
- Take a few minutes to evaluate the comic
● Evaluate without speaking

**Objective Questions** *(Factual observations related to the topic)*

- When you look at this cartoon from the LA Times, what do you see?
- What is different about the two students in the cartoon?
- What is the same?
- What about the body language of the youth (students)?
- Do the cartoon people show any emotion? If so, what emotions are visible?
- What does the dialogue bubble say? Are both students speaking?

**Reflective Questions** *(Get them to think, internalize)*

- When you saw this comic, how did it make you feel?
- Why do you think you felt this way?
- Have you ever experienced a similar situation? If so, which student were you? How did you feel?
- Do you think one group gets services or goods because of their race, gender, or socio-economic background? Why?

**Interpretive Questions** *(Relate the topic to the larger picture)*

- **SHARE the following cartoon (also attached)**
- Evaluate the following cartoon. *(Note: there are 3 phases)*
What do you see in this picture?
What is the difference between the left side and the far-right side of the cartoon?
Where is our community in this cartoon? (Left, center, or right)
How does this connect to the first comic?

**Decisional Questions (Now what? So what?)**

- What other information do we need to know about this topic?
- Thinking about our community and the second picture, what can be done to get to LIBERATION? Is there anything else to do?
- Why is this an important topic?
- What could be a challenge to taking action on this topic?

**Closing**

Fill in the blank for me. “This has been a _____________ conversation.” Now that we have talked about this topic it can be a starting point for moving forward. What can I do next to make an impact on my life? What can I do next to make an impact in my community?

**Evaluation (Tool used)**
Additional Resources

Cartoon source and article: https://highschool.latimes.com/foothill-technology-high-school/opinion-stop-conceptualizing-affirmative-action-as-reverse-racism/

Diversity & Inclusion curriculum: https://shop4-h.org/collections/diversity-inclusion-curriculum


Reflections on the Dialogue (by facilitator)

References:


When people of color are admitted into colleges, they are often told that they only got in because of their race. Credit: Jenny Chang/The Foothill Dragon Press. Reprinted in the Los Angeles Times.

Interaction Institute for Social Change & Maguire, 2016
Guided Dialogue 4

What Do You Mean Black Lives Matter? Increasing Understanding of Cultural Movements

Author: Dr. Michelle Cox, University of Illinois Extension

**Intended Audience:** Youth and adults

**Time Required:** 1 hour

### Dialogue Objectives:
- Extend thinking and learning capacity
- Make learning meaningful
- Make communication in groups effective
- Help prevent and solve problems
- Strengthen the effectiveness of evaluation

### Learning Objectives:
- Understand the purpose of civil right organizations
- Understand the intent of the Black Lives Matter movement
- Understand our reactions to cultural injustices and what we can do about it

**Background/Situation**

Why should America focus on Black Lives Matter when all lives matter? For centuries, people of color have unsuccessfully fought for equitable access and treatment. This discussion will examine why the Black Lives Matter movement is paramount to equality for African Americans.

**The Conversation**

**Engage** *(Grabber/Hook to open the conversation)*
- **SHARE** the Black Lives Matter Logo followed by the video, “Black Lives Matter Protests Around the World” *(approximately 4 minutes)*

[https://youtu.be/4Vi4I0weXPU](https://youtu.be/4Vi4I0weXPU)
**Objective Questions** *(Factual statements related to the topic)*

- What did you see in the video?
- What stood out to you?
- When you hear the words, “Black Lives Matter,” what comes to mind?
- What comments have you heard in your homes or communities about the Black Lives Matter movement?

**Reflective Questions** *(Get them to think, internalize)*

- How did the video make you feel?
- When are times that you have felt unfairly treated because of a characteristic that you cannot change about yourself?
- When have you felt excluded?
- Is the Black Lives Matter movement important? Why/Why Not?

**Interpretive Questions** *(Relate the topic to the larger picture)*

- What is your interpretation of the video’s message?
- What can we learn from this?
- What are some of the root issues?

**Decisional Questions** *(Now what? So what?)*

- How do we think this knowledge or experience will help in the future?
- How do we apply the information we have learned?
- What other information do we need to know?

**Closing**

Fill in the blank for me. “This has been a _____________ conversation.” Now that we have talked about this topic it can be a starting point for moving forward. What can I do next to make an impact on my life? What can I do next to make an impact in my community?

**Evaluation** *(Tool used)*
Additional Resources

https://blacklivesmatter.com/

Civil Rights Timeline: https://www.history.com/topics/civil-rights-movement/civil-rights-movement-timeline

Diversity & inclusion curriculum: https://shop4-h.org/collections/diversity-inclusion-curriculum

Reflections on the Dialogue (by facilitator)

References:


BLACK LIVES MATTER
Guided Dialogue 5

Does Racism Still Exist? Increasing Understanding of Systematic Racism

Author: Dr. Michelle Cox, University of Illinois Extension

Intended Audience: Youth and Adults

Time Required: 1 hour

Dialogue Objectives:

- Extend thinking and learning capacity
- Make learning meaningful
- Make communication in groups effective
- Help prevent and solve problems
- Strengthen the effectiveness of evaluation

Learning Objectives:

- Understand systemic inequalities
- Become familiar with disparities of access among marginalized groups
- Understand systematic racism and its effects on marginalized areas.

Background/Situation: Often when we think about racism, we think of an outward action or words spoken against someone of a particular group. This discussion will explore systemic racism and its effects on marginalized groups. Systemic racism is a form of racism which is embedded as normal practice within society or an organization. It can lead to such issues as discrimination in criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power, and education, among other issues.

The Conversation

Engage (Grabber/Hook to open the conversation)

- SHARE the attached pictures of two public schools in Illinois
- Today, we are going to discuss systematic racism and its subtle effects. I am going to share a few facts with you as you view the two pictures.
  - In relation to the best Illinois public high schools to attend, Lake Forest High School is ranked 16th while North Chicago High School is ranked
On average, Lake Forest High School has a yearly graduation rate of 96%, while North Chicago High School has a graduation rate of 56%.

Students in Lake Forest High School are predominantly white, while students in North Chicago High School are predominately people of color.

The families in both Lake Forest High School and North Chicago High School pay the same property tax. (Property tax is considered when allocating educational funding)

These high schools are located approximately 5 miles (12-minute drive) from each other.

Objective Questions (Factual observations related to the topic)
- Describe what you saw.
- What facts catch your attention?
- What did you think when you viewed the pictures?
- What did you think when you heard the information

Reflective Questions (Get them to think, internalize)
- What was your first reaction?
- What shocked you about the information?
- What was confusing?
- With whom did you first identify?
- What surprises you?

Interpretive Questions (Relate the topic to the larger picture)
- Why/How do you think this happened?
- What is a key insight you had?
- If you attended one of the schools, where would you be? Why?
- What pattern did you hear?
- How does this impact a student's educational aspirations?

Decisional Questions (Now what? So what?)
What recommendations do you have?
Who needs to be involved in creating change and equity?
How has this changed you, or your thinking?

Closing
Fill in the blank for me. “This has been a ______________ conversation.” Now that we have talked about this topic it can be a starting point for moving forward. What can I do next to make an impact on my life? What can I do next to make an impact in my community?

Evaluation (Tool used)

Additional Resources
Lake Forest High School: http://www.lakeforestschools.org/schools/lfhs
North Chicago High School: https://ncchs.d187.org/
Disrupting Implicit Bias: https://sites.ed.gov/whieea/files/2016/10/Disrupting-Implicit-Bias-FINAL.pdf
Diversity & Inclusion curriculum: https://shop4-h.org/collections/diversity-inclusion-curriculum
Mapping Inequality project: https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=4/41.218/-97.194

Reflections on the Lesson (by facilitator)

References:

Guided Dialogue 6

Why Do People Riot to Get Their Point Across? Understanding Civil Unrest

Author: Dr. Michelle Cox, University of Illinois Extension

Intended Audience: Youth and Adults

Time Required: 1 hour

Dialogue Objectives:
- Extend thinking and learning capacity
- Make learning meaningful
- Make communication in groups effective
- Help prevent and solve problems
- Strengthen the effectiveness of evaluation

Learning Objectives:
- Understand why riots take place
- Evaluate whether rioting is an effective method of protest
- Analyze the conditions under which people choose to riot

Background Info/Situation: As early as the Boston Tea Party, rioting has been one method used in an effort to bring about change. This discussion will examine how riots emerge.

The Conversation

Engage (Grabber/Hook to open the conversation)

- PLAY 2:01 seconds of the video clip, “How Protests Become Riots, And How They Change History” | NBC News
  https://youtu.be/2xZ7oC8u7l4
- Let’s all spend a few moments in silence, reflecting on our feelings about the video.
**Objective Questions** *(Factual observations related to the topic)*

- Tell me what happened. Try to do this from the standpoint of an external reporter, holding a video recorder. Be as specific as you can.
- What behaviors did you observe?
- What comments have you heard from your family?

**Reflective Questions** *(Get them to think, internalize)*

- Why do you think riots happened?
- What image jumps to mind?
- What memories did this bring out?
- What worries you most about this behavior?

**Interpretive Questions** *(Relate the topic to the larger picture)*

- What is a key insight you had?
- If you were in the video, what would you be doing? Why?
- What would you have done differently?
- What are other methods of protest that could have been effective?

**Decisional Questions** *(Now what? So what?)*

- What recommendations do you have?
- How has this video changed you or your thinking? Why?
- What strategies can be applied?

**Closing**

Fill in the blank for me. “This has been a ____________ conversation.” Now that we have talked about this topic it can be a starting point for moving forward. What can I do next to make an impact on my life? What can I do next to make an impact in my community?

**Evaluation** *(Tool used)*
Additional Resources


Diversity & Inclusion curriculum: https://shop4-h.org/collections/diversity-inclusion-curriculum

Reflections on the Lesson (by facilitator)

References:


When people of color are admitted into colleges, they are often told that they only got in because of their race. Credit: Jenny Chang, The Foothill Dragon Press.
Interaction Institute for Social Change & Maguire, 2016