



Facilitator's Guide

The *Rooted in Racial Justice* video project tells the story of adult education and its connection to the Civil Rights Movement. The film features interviews with 3 adult learners of color discussing their experiences with racism and how programs today can honor the legacy of adult education and join the fight to end racism.

Objective

- Learners will understand the history of adult education and its connection to the Civil Rights Movement
- Learners will be able to evaluate the role of the Civil Rights Movement in adult education

Activity

- Ice Breaker Activity
- Preview Glossary Words
- Show the film to students
- Facilitate a discussion about racism in the classroom

Ice Breaker Activity

This activity begins the introspective process while continuing to provide opportunity for individuals to make connections with each other. Participants write short poems, starting each line with "I am," encouraging them to describe in their own words who they are and what's salient to their identity. This is a good activity to do towards the end of the semester.

Required Items: None

Directions:

- Ask participants to take 10-15 minutes to write a poem called "Who I Am."
- Instruct them that the only rule for the piece is that each line must start with the phrase "I am..." Leave it open to their interpretation as much as possible, but suggest that they can, if they wish, include statements about where they're from regionally, ethnically, religiously, etc., memories from different points in their lives, interests and hobbies, mottos or credos, favorite phrases, family traditions and customs, and whatever else defines who they are.

- Be sure to let them know that they will be sharing their poems.

Glossary

- **Racism**- poor treatment of or violence against people because of their race. Prejudice + Power.
- **Power**- the ability or right to control people or things
- **Prejudice**- an unfair feeling of dislike for a person or group because of race, sex, religion, etc
- **Social justice**- the belief that everyone deserves to enjoy the same economic, political and social rights
- **Highlander Folk School**- A school in Tennessee that taught students how to fight prejudice in the community
- **Popular education**- a style of teaching that builds on people's life experiences to come up with solutions for positive social change

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Highlander Folk School Main Building, Monteagle, TN.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever experienced racism? What happened?
- Can adult education fight racism?
- What does your school do to promote building relationships with students of color?
- How can instructors start the conversation and facilitate the topic of racism in the classroom?
- Is racism getting worse or disappearing?
- What kind of world would it be if there was no racism?
- What were your thoughts when you heard about the history of adult education?