**Race Dialogues**

*Discussion Guidelines*

1. We will have introductions and a read through of the guidelines at the beginning of the conversation. Notecards and pencils will be provided for you to write down any comments, suggestions, or feelings about the dialogues you would like to share with us. You may put these in our suggestion box at the end of the conversation.

2. Flow: The moderators will pose discussion topics. If you have a comment or thought while someone is speaking, please raise your hand and a moderator will come around to you and put you on the speaker's list. Speaking will go in order of the list. No interruptions while someone is speaking. When it is your time to speak, keep your comments to no more than 3 minutes. The moderator will indicate when you have 30 seconds left. The moderator will be present to keep the conversation on track and moving, if you exceed three minutes you will be asked to conclude your comments. You may speak multiple times.

3. If you disagree with a point, or would like to discuss someone's comments further - please refer to the idea and not the person. (Example: "I disagree with the idea of..." Rather than, "I disagree with Timothy...")

4. Please keep identities private when drawing upon your own personal experiences. (for example: "My friend and I..." not, "Katherine and I..").

5. Twenty minutes before the dialogue ends, we will transition to a final go around. During this time, every participant is encouraged to reflect on the following, “What will I take away from this?” and “What will I do after this?” We encourage you to articulate an action statement, and hold yourself accountable after the dialogue.

6. Suspending Political Correctness: This is a space  to get feedback on questions you don't have the answers to. Please be open to using language and talking about topics you may be uncomfortable with.

7. Suspending Hierarchical Structures: No one is more or less important or valuable than anyone else. A student's input must be judged just as equally as a professor’s input.

8. Promoting the "Growing Edge": We grow and learn when we are uncomfortable. Be willing to embrace how uncomfortable some of these conversations might be, and then try to be comfortable. This requires a certain level of vulnerability.

9. We are all here, regardless of our racial identity, to speak with everyone - we are not taking sides. Be willing to learn from people of different races. (That is, be aware of the phenomenon that most white people learn about race from other white people.)

10. *This is a space to take risks and be challenged*. If any individual feels emotionally triggered they are free to express that emotion through conversation. It is okay to be angry, but personal attacks are not allowed. While we acknowledge that these issues are emotionally charged, we must strive to learn about these issues through positive experiences.

\* If you are triggered by anything, feel free to take a moment to leave the conversation. Once you feel able to come back to the conversation, we encourage you to do so.

\*\* Triggers may come from bigger issues than what is going on in the group at a particular moment. People should try not to take triggered reactions personally.

11. We are all learning, unlearning, and relearning. Use this space as an opportunity to really deeply listen. Effective communication is listening to people as they want to be heard. If you are listening to your peer, and hearing what you want to hear – you are not listening.

12. We all should assume each other’s best intent in our words and statements in this conversation. We all speak for ourselves and no one else. Try not to make generalizations.

13. This conversation is inclusive and is about everyone.

14. You do not have to say anything if you do not want to. We understand that some people learn from listening and observing.

15. This dialogue is not the end of *the* conversation. Please continue this outside of this area.

*Goals*

1. We strive to have open, vulnerable, educational, and challenging conversations about race, racism, and racial tensions.

2. This is a *student* led initiative. Students will coordinate all activities, and the dialogues will be student moderated.

3. We strive to talk about issues in the LC Community and Portland area – primarily focusing on student experiences. In addition, we will attempt to incorporate outside materials such as articles, stories, and videos.

4. We strive to create a safe space for people to ask real questions that they seek to understand.

5. We strive to provide a structure that can be sustained by future moderators.

Question? Comments? Interested in moderating?
Email us at: racedialogueslc@gmail.com

Student Resources:
Danni Green: dannig@lclark.edu

Nima Mohamed: nmohamed@lclark.edu

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Lewis & Clark Staff Resources:

Valerie Craigwell White: ombuds@lclark.edu -- Agnes Flanagan Chapel, Room 114 (lower level)

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