



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.19 Examining the Construct of Race in the Sciences

Objectives

Explore the concept of race as applied to a particular field in science or social science.

Analyze the effects of the construct on that field.

Materials needed

Copies of the handout

Reference materials

Time needed

Sixty minutes or more

Instructor directions

Ask your students to define the concept of “race” as it operates in a particular field of science or social science.

Have them write an etymology of the concept analyzing how the construct of race has affected various aspects of the field.

Variation

Have your students define the concept of “gender” as it operates in a particular field of science or social science.



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Directions

Define the concept of “race” as it operates in a particular field of science or social science.

Write an etymology of the concept.

Answer the following questions:

How was the concept introduced into the field?

How has it shaped or affected the field?

How has scientific or scholarly work served to support or to challenge the definition?

How has the discipline’s concept of race affected the design of experiments and the interpretation of empirical results?

How has the concept affected the funding of research projects?

How has it affected the participation of individuals in the field?

Variation

Define the concept of “gender” as it operates in a particular field of science or social science. Follow the above directions.