

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Anti-Racist Pedagogy



What is Anti-Racist Pedagogy?

Anti-racist pedagogies interrogate socially constructed notions of race and challenge systems and structures that re/produce and sustain racial disparities. This pedagogy is explicitly conscious of race, gender, sexuality, social class, religion and many other intersections. It addresses experiences of racism, intersecting systems of oppression and the construction of whiteness.



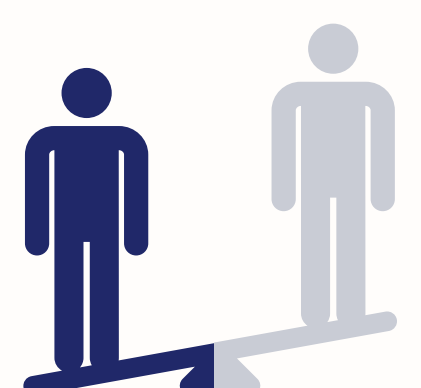
Examples of Racist or Oppressive Education

Some examples of racist or oppressive education include teaching practices and curricula that reinforce stereotypes and ideologies of "otherness," those that fail to center or critically analyze race and power, fail to address microaggressions, racial slurs, and racist behaviours in person and online, fail to acknowledge, and engage students of colour among others.



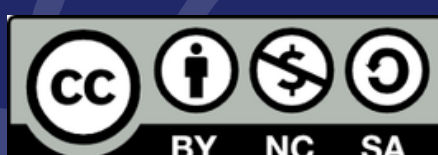
Anti-Racist Pedagogy is NOT

Anti-racist pedagogy is not easy, positive, comfortable, linear, polite, a "quick fix," or a resume-builder. It is important for educators to distinguish between comfort and safety in these conversations, especially for students with greater privilege in the classroom. The fantasy of comfort needs to be challenged by centring discomfort as a necessary part of this work.



What is Whiteness? Why is it Important?

Gillborn (2015) refers to whiteness as "a set of assumptions, beliefs and practices that place the interests and perspectives of White people at the center of what is considered normal and every day" (p. 278). It is important to understand and address how white supremacy functions as an economic, cultural, and political system to maintain power asymmetries in society.



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