

Face Test: Do I have the full picture?

Time to complete this lesson: 25 minutes

Learning Objective: To explore the extent to which our experiences have exposed us to racial diversity and how it may affect our perspectives

Set-Up:

- Materials needed: 2 blank sheets of white paper per person; pen or pencil
- Need one member of the group to be the reader/timer

Read aloud: The world is full of thousands of languages and experiences, multiracial and interclass. But our upbringing, family, friends, schools and churches, from which we develop our world view, are often not so diverse. Did your background expose you to racial diversity? Does your current life expose you to racial diversity?

On one of your sheets of paper, draw a face-shaped oval or circle. Draw one component of a human face (eye, nose, mouth, ear, another ear, hair, etc.) for every “yes” answer you have for the following questions as they relate to your childhood. It’s okay if you don’t draw a completed face. We’ll discuss what we were able to draw at the end of the questions.

1. At least one member of my immediate family (parents, siblings, grandparents) is from a racial/ethnic group other than my own.
2. At least one family in the neighborhood of my childhood home (one of about 10 homes) was of a racial/ethnic group other than my own.
3. At least one of my close childhood friends was from a racial/ethnic group other than my own.
4. The religious group, synagogue, mosque or church I attended was racially mixed (at least 10 percent of the members were of a racial group other than my own).
5. The schools I attended were racially mixed (at least 10 percent of the student body were from a racial group or groups other than my own).
6. At least one of my school teachers, or coaches was of a racial/ethnic group other than my own.
7. I grew up in a home where I NEVER heard my parents or siblings say a negative word about groups of people by race or ethnicity.
8. Of the friends my parent(s) socialized with and regularly invited to our home, at least one was from a racial/ethnic group other than their own.

Discuss: (5 minutes)

- Were you able to create a full face?
- During your childhood, how were you exposed to racial diversity?

Read aloud: Now, let's look at our current exposure to diversity. On the other piece of paper, once again draw an oval or circle face shape. As with the previous questions, add a facial component each time you answer "yes" to a question. But this time, think about the questions as they pertain to your current adult life.

1. At least one member of my extended family (cousins, spouse, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, etc.) is from a racial/ethnic group other than my own.
2. At least one family in my current neighborhood (one out of about 10 homes) is of a racial/ethnic group other than my own.
3. At least one of my close friends is from a racial/ethnic group other than my own.
4. The religious group, synagogue, mosque or church I attend is racially mixed (at least 10 percent of the members are of a racial group other than my own).
5. The schools my children attend(ed) are racially mixed (at least 10 percent of the student body are from a racial group or groups other than my own).
6. In my home, we NEVER say negative words about groups of people by race or ethnicity.
7. Of the friends I socialize with and regularly invite to my home, at least one is from a racial/ethnic group other than my own.

Discuss: (10 minutes)

- What does your "adult" face look like compared to your "childhood" face?
- Does your current environment have more exposure to diversity?
- How do your past and present experiences with racial diversity shape how you view others?

Send me your thoughts: dnnsmlyk@aol.com . In the next *Iowa Weekly*, I will include my thoughts and others as we move through this process.

Source: *Continuing Courageous Conversations Toolkit*
Adapted from M. Garlinda Burton's *The Face Test*