



Tell Me Something Good Anti-Racism Training Team Activity

The purpose of this activity is to have fun and to help staff understand that anti-racism work should be a part of everything we do when working with families, co-workers and management. We hope the activities provided will help improve our working relationships with each other, as well as how we respond to client needs.

Directions

1. Choose a song or video to play for the beginning of meeting – to set the mood! The name of this activity, “Tell Me Something Good” is also a popular song by Chaka Khan. Before beginning your discussion, you may want to play it (or another song connected to the title). Be creative – have fun!
2. Select a few volunteers to read facts for discussion for the group.
3. Discuss what each fact means to the group, especially in relation to the everyday work of staff and our Anti-Racism framework

Sample Facts

Use these facts or select facts from a reputable organization through an online search, to help your group in the continuous work of ending institutional racism and oppression.

1. Ramsey County’s Human Services Values Statement¹ affirms that our commitment is to:

*Dedicate ourselves to provide the best possible service to the community
with the highest standards of accountability, integrity and effectiveness.*

One of our four values is *Inclusiveness*, and this value states:

We strive to offer equitable opportunity so people of all backgrounds can succeed.

What do these statements mean to you and how do you bring them to life in the work you do?

Ask someone to find out the other three Values and at a unit meeting hold a discussion about how each one relates to our Anti-Racism work.

2. St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated to commemorate the Patron Saint of Ireland, who converted the island to Christianity in 432 CE. Tradition says that St. Patrick died on this date (March 17th) 461 CE. The shamrock is worn to remember its use as a symbol of the Trinity- (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
3. March is Women’s History Month. On March 8th, 1857, garment workers in NYC staged one of the first organized protests by working women. Women’s groups internationally have designated times to mark this day. To add women’s history into educational curricula, a Women’s History Week was initiated in 1978. By 1981, the week was a national event. In 1987, the National Women’s History Project petitioned Congress to include all of March as a celebration of Women.
4. Karen Refugees who have relocated to the Minnesota have likely lived in a refugee camp in Burma for 18 months or more and have to go through a lottery process before getting selected to relocate to another

¹ Adopted January 2012

country. They often have left the majority of their close family members behind. Prior to moving away from their home land- everything they had was homemade (their homes, tools, clothes, medicine, etc.)

5. When the American Civil War ended, several legal challenges faced the newly-reunited nation. One was how to define a citizen so that former slaves, and other African Americans, were included. (The Dred Scott decision, before the Civil War, had declared that black people "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect....") The citizenship rights of those who had rebelled against the federal government or who had participated in secession were also in question. One response was the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, proposed on June 13, 1866, and ratified July 28, 1868.

During the Civil War, the developing women's rights movement had largely put their agenda on hold, with most women's rights advocates supporting the Union efforts. Many women's rights advocates had been abolitionists as well, so they eagerly supported the war, which they believed would end slavery.

When the Civil War ended, women's rights advocates expected to take up their cause once again, joined by the male abolitionists whose cause had been won. But when the [Fourteenth Amendment](#) was proposed, the women's rights movement split over whether to support it as a means of finishing the job of establishing full citizenship for the freed slaves and other African Americans.

6. Please share one idea of how the work you do can help to end racial disparities and build stronger and more productive relationships.
7. Discuss how we strive to offer equitable opportunity so people of all backgrounds can succeed.
8. 1862 Dakota Conflict, stands as the largest mass execution in American history. Only the unpopular intervention of [President Lincoln](#) saved 265 other Dakota and mixed-bloods from the fate met by the less fortunate thirty-eight. The mass hanging was the concluding scene in the opening chapter of a story of the American-Sioux conflict that would not end until the Seventh Cavalry completed its massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, on December 29, 1890.

In 1862, the Sioux Nation stretched from Minnesota's Big Woods to the Rocky Mountains. There were seven Sioux tribes, including three western tribes, collectively called the Lakota, and four eastern tribes living in Minnesota and the eastern Dakotas called the Dakota.

- About 7,000 members of the four Dakota tribes lived on a reservation bordering the frontier, near the Minnesota River in southwestern Minnesota.
- The Dakota Conflict (or Dakota War or Sioux Uprising) involved primarily the two southernmost Dakota tribes, the Mdewakantons and Wahpekutes.
- Tribes consisted of bands, each with a leader or chief. The Mdewakantons, for example, were divided into nine bands.
- A majority of the 4,000 members of the two northern tribes, the Sissetons and the Wahpetons, were opposed to the fighting. A large number of Sissetons and Wahpetons had been converted to farming and Christianity, and had both moral objections and strong reasons of self-interest for keeping peace with the whites. In addition to pure-blood Indians, there were many so-called mixed-bloods, the progeny of relationships between Indians and settlers. A majority of mixed-bloods sided with whites or avoided participation in the Conflict altogether.

9. Historically in the United States; Fortune 500 Companies are run by men. Here are five top earning Fortune 500 Companies with women CEO's: Pepsi Corporation, Yahoo, Archer Daniels Midland (Energy Company), Avon, DuPont

If you are neutral in a situation of injustice; you have chosen the side of the oppressor
Bishop Desmond Tutu