

TALKING ABOUT RACE IN THE CLASSROOM

by Dr. Terrell L. Strayhorn, Professor & CEO

5 Essential Practices

1. Educate for empowerment.
2. Know how to talk about race.
3. Capture the unseen.
4. Resist telling a simple story.
5. Connect to the present.

7 Critical Habits

1. Acknowledge the importance of race in students' lives.
2. Dispel ideas about a biological basis for race.
3. Interrogate the history of race as social construct and means for control.
4. Create a safe learning environment with community guidelines.
5. Identify common roadblocks to productive talks about race.
6. Speak from your own experience and ask students to do the same.
7. Assume positive intent but never deny negative impact



Resources and Links

-H. Richard Milner's *Rac(e)ing to Class: Confronting Poverty and Race in Schools and Classrooms*

-Beverly Tatum's *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversation about Race*

-Chris Emdin's *For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood...And the Rest of Y'all Too*

-Strayhorn's *Handling Difficult Conversations in the Classroom* (in K. Hannum's Leading Across Differences Facilitators Guide)

-NOTE: 5 Essential Practices and 7 Critical Habits (modified) are taken from *Teaching Tolerance* at www.tolerance.org.

