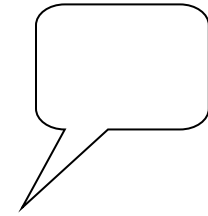


# UNITYWORKS



## From our Trainings: Teacher Comments on Race

1. **Val O:** I never really thought of there being only one race. You really don't get taught that anywhere in life, so when you hear it for the first time, it kind of baffles you.
2. **Susan L:** The readings about race really opened my eyes. I always thought of race as black, white, red and yellow, and that color blindness was good. Now I see that inclusion and awareness are better than just seeing people as all the same. I like the flower garden idea. I've never thought of it that way—appreciating each individual flower for its own beauty.
3. **Brock B:** When asked how many races exist in the world, I thought of Caucasian, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American, etc., which I believed to total seven races. When we were told there was only one race, it took me a minute to realize that we ARE all one race: the human race. It was so simple to understand! As an educator, I must give my students the same awareness before they believe in our society's highly biased view, and it's too late.
4. **Nichole H:** I learned today that we are one race, and I am going educate that we are one race. This idea makes me think of the movie "Independence Day" when aliens came to blow us up, and we as humans came together as one to fight off violence. Someday I would like to see that happen—without the aliens. 😊
5. **Anne C:** I had never thought it through all the way like we did today. The big ah-ha came from the 'exponential ancestry' we did. It was fascinating to see how many people exist in our past. As a math teacher, this appealed to me. I have struggled with how to implement some of these concepts into the math curriculum, and this is a fantastic...real-life example.
6. **Amy M:** This new awareness just made me feel so relieved, relaxed and honestly giddy. That day, I went and told everyone I knew that we are all one human race!
7. **Carmen T:** What a revelation to think that we are all related! Very cool!
8. **Patrick P:** The concept that we are all one race is compelling. The fact that this can be supported by science, only confirms the prejudice of our past. How are children supposed to understand what is right and wrong, when parents and teachers as role models, are programming racist ideology at such an early age?
9. **Heriberto F:** Needless to say, I am becoming aware of my own prejudices. I thought that I was aware since I myself have been a victim of racial discrimination. But we cannot ignore prejudice. We must help eradicate it by starting with ourselves.
10. **Kerrie H:** I know these prejudices are cruel and I felt hurt when the items were read about my group. I hear it all the time with teachers labeling students. I know I have done this to others, and I will never do it again.

11. **Lety R:** A light clicked in my head, and I realized that what I have learned growing up, and what my children are being taught today, are influenced by one point of view. What in the world are we teaching our students?
12. **Rubén F:** I now feel a responsibility as a teacher. I am driven to examine my own instructional methods and behaviors. I am conscious of my own filter in which I view the world around me.
13. **Shayna S:** For the first time I verbalized who was “us” for me and who was “them.” I have become aware.
14. **Brandon B:** As a white male, I can have a large impact on the cultural landscape of this country. We should take on an active role, but not out of guilt. We should do it because it is the right thing, and we do have the leverage to make changes in how people are treated. This was one of the first times in a multicultural education class where I've felt valued, excited and proud, well at least positive, about my place as a white male in the world.
15. **Rebecca W:** I used to think that one voice did not make an impact, but that has changed. Now I believe that even one voice can make a difference. All of us together in this class have had an opportunity to change our views and we will be able to bring this message of understanding to our own schools, our communities, our families.
16. **Peter A:** While realizing that we cannot entirely solve the problems which exist between cultures, as a school superintendent, I also realize somebody has to start somewhere, starting with ourselves as individuals, spreading to our schools and ultimately to our community.
17. **Tonya T:** This class has really made me a better person. It makes me want to be a better teacher – to be able to touch all of my students. It is one thing to say it, and it is even better to take action. I want to be that action.
18. **Katherine W:** As a Native American woman, I particularly appreciated my internal healing as you closed with these thoughts:
  - We need to recognize the oneness of humanity and teach it to our students.
  - To purge our hearts and classrooms from all traces of racial superiority and inferiority
  - To actively work to undo 500 years of racial conditioning
  - To teach the value of diversity and the need for unity
  - To teach students about the nobility of the human spirit
  - To call them to the high station of service to all mankind
  - In a world torn by prejudice, hate and war, our classrooms can become models of hope for the future.

