

Examples of anti-Black racism in classrooms

Context

1

You're teaching a required course
On social justice and anti-oppression.
During a lecture discussing systemic
anti-Black racism, a student (who
identifies as white) raises their hand
and says: "I think we're focusing too
much on race. Aren't there other
kinds of oppression that matter just
as much?"

QUESTION 1

What's happening here?

QUESTION 2

What are the assumptions I'm making
in describing what's happening?

QUESTION 3

What are the harms for Black youth,
families, and communities?

CALL TO ACTION

How can this be made right? What can
I/we do to support racial healing?

Context

2

In a townhall meeting on community engagement, a non-Black youth says about a Black community:

“They just don’t trust professionals and it makes it hard to help them.”

A Black student visibly tenses and looks uncomfortable but doesn’t speak.

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QUESTION 2

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QUESTION 3

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CALL TO ACTION

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Context

3

A Black student approaches you about an experience that took place in a classroom. Their instructor repeatedly mispronounces their name and comments that they are “so articulate,” followed by “you’re not like most people from your community.” The student feels disrespected but is unsure how to respond without risking their evaluation.

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QUESTION 2

What are the assumptions I’m making in describing what’s happening?

QUESTION 3

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CALL TO ACTION

How can this be made right? What can I/we do to support racial healing?