1-18-2018

Profiling as Pedagogy - Difficult Dialog in Practice

Erika Abad
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, erika.abad@unlv.edu

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Profiling as Pedagogy - Difficult Dialog in Practice

The Need:
This exercise addresses how to create a safe and inclusive environment needed to discuss unintended racism and racial microaggressions.

Class Exercise:
Profiling a professor exercise explores what it means when people from different backgrounds ask another person “what are you” or “where are you from.”

Learning outcomes:
- Communication - students identify features of a person that provide context clues about their background
- Critical Thinking - students and teacher explore what it means to assign value to those features
- Global Awareness - students and teacher discuss those meanings across communities

Profiling patterns - outlined
The above picture addresses the following in class questions:
- What is the difference in who does it?
- How do people feel as a result of being profiled?
- “When I was___, I also experienced ___”

student responses
They stayed after the lecture to discuss:
- their personal experiences
- shared experiences with name calling
- ‘white’ students who aren’t white
- mixed students - ‘I don’t belong with either group’
- “Have you seen (x) hashtag on Twitter?”
- “Can I speak to you in Spanish? It’s easier for me to…”

Websites
- Implicit Association Bias Test
  https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/
- National Institute of Justice - Racial Profiling

Social media research terms
- #WoCAffirmation
- #teamlightskin v. #teamdarkskin
- #lightbright

Selected bibliography

Contact information
erika.abad@unlv.edu
@prof_eabad (Twitter & Instagram)

Profiling as pedagogy exercise
1. Survey questions (IClicker or Kahoot!)
   a. When was the first time you were marked as racially or ethnically different?
   b. Was that perceived as good or bad by the other person
   c. Was that perceived good or bad by you?
2. Invite students to profile professor guessing answers to ‘where are you from’
   a. Have then ID traits that inform guess
   b. Write down traits
   c. Ask about social stereotypes around traits and IDs

Encouraging addt’l discussion
- I wanted to ask about your hair
- What did you know I wasn’t
- What does it mean that there were different definitions
- Small group discussion on context of settings - school, work, home, shopping