Profiling as Pedagogy - Difficult Dialog in Practice

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

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/btp_expo

Recommended Citation
https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/btp_expo/1

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Affairs at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.
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

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

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

UNLV University of Nevada, Las Vegas