

Kingston Reads: So You Want to Talk About Race

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Rough Draft Bar and Books, 82 John Street, Kingston, NY

Session #1 - Thursday, July 2, 2020 5 pm

Chapters 1 - 5

Reflection #1 (Introduction)

On page 5, the author writes: “These are very scary times for a lot of people who are just now realizing that America is not, and never has been, the melting-pot utopia that their parents and teachers told them it was.”

Describe/reflect on this statement and your personal “realization” - or not! Is this the America you thought it was growing up? If not, how did you realize it wasn't?

Reflection #2 (Chapter 1: Is it really about race?)

There is an argument noted in Chapter 1 that we should focus more on “class than race.” (page 8).

Reflect on this argument - do you agree or disagree with the author who believes that for people of color this “race stuff” is always being pushed to the back?

Reflection #3 (Chapter 2: What is racism?)

The author writes that we cannot agree on what the definition of racism is (page 26). Please reflect on her definition, that racism is “a prejudice against someone based on race, when those prejudices are reinforced by systems of power.”

Do you agree or disagree? And, if you disagree, how would you define racism?

Reflection #4

The author asks us to self-reflect: “Why are you here?” she writes. Why did you choose to be part of this book study?

Reflection #5 (Chapter 3: What if I talk about race wrong?)

Please share your fears about talking about race with friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, etc. And, if you've already tried it - what are your “screw ups?” What are your successes?

Reflection #6 (Chapter 4: Why am I always being told to check my privilege?)

What emotions come up when you're told to "check your privilege?"

What privileges do you believe you have?

How have these privileges helped you to be where you are?

Reflection #7 (Chapter 5: What is intersectionality and why do I need it?)

For the author, the number one requirement for ALL the work that she does is based on intersectionality, the "belief that our social justice movements must consider all of the intersections of identity, privilege, and oppression that people face in order to be just and effective."