

MLK Day Session Description - Winnetka Campus

Session Title	Session Description
One Person, One Vote: Can the Voting Rights Act be Saved?	One of the key achievements of the Civil Rights Movement was protecting voting rights through the passage of the Voting Rights Act and the 24th amendment. In recent years more and more Americans have found their ability to vote restricted by new voter id laws, limits on early voting, inadequate election day facilities, and voter disenfranchisement. How can we ensure that everyone's voice is heard, regardless of race, class, or geography.
The Truth about Ferguson: The Investigation into the Death of Michael Brown	The death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, sparked protest and outrage regarding the treatment of people of color by law enforcement. Some demanded reform and recognition of ongoing injustices, while others came to the defense of officer Darren Wilson. Meanwhile, similar events following Brown's death continued to go viral on social media. The United States Justice Department investigated the death of Brown as well as the Ferguson Police Department as a whole. This seminar will look into the Justice Departments findings.
The 1968 Olympics and the Salute Heard Round the World	After placing 1st and 3rd in the 200 meter final of the 1968 Olympics, two African American athletes received their medals with heads bowed and fists raised in the air while a third white athlete stood with them. This seminar will focus on the context of this event and the told and untold story of all three athletes captured in this iconic photo as a means to explore the large and small impacts that come with standing up for what you believe.
Reconstructing Race	Race is an influential concept in our society, but one that's not often questioned. How do we figure out what race someone is? And what do we mean when we say someone is white, black or any other race?
Building Empathy	In this activity students will experience a silent exercise simulating the distribution of resources in Illinois. Students will be split into teams of 7-10 and be given a section of the room and a bag of materials they will use to build the best house/building they can possibly build while experiencing several "twists". Students will then debrief the workshop in small groups and as a whole group to help us all develop our empathy for others and their experiences.
"The Word": The Power of Language & Race in Pop Culture	Students will start by viewing an episode of ABC's show, "Black-ish" entitled "The Word." A discussion will follow covering topics such as racial language in TV, and the power of words in reinforcing systemic racism. Students will also examine the evolution of racial stereotypes in TV.

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<p>Why Do I Have to Feel Guilty for Being White?</p>	<p>Talking about race doesn't usually feel good for anyone. White people often walk away feeling guilty and thinking, "But <i>I</i> didn't do anything!" In this workshop, we'll explore how white guilt can become a roadblock in our journeys toward becoming white allies.</p>
<p>Racial Stress Through The Lens of Emotional Intelligence</p>	<p>This session will examine how Martin Luther King, Jr. was an example of resilience and emotional intelligence. Some of the specific skills that MLK demonstrated include the following: ability to empathize with others; stay motivated and positive in the face of adversity; connect to and unite others; manage stress, anger, and disappointment; perceive strengths and limitations; read others' needs and emotions; communicate effectively; and alter one's message for different audiences. Aside from contributing to MLK's leadership, these skills can help us all better understand their own responses in racially challenging situations, as well as develop a sensitivity to perspectives of others from diverse backgrounds.</p>
<p>Unconscious Perceptions of Race</p>	<p>How does the media you choose and the community in which you live both reflect and influence the way you look at race. Join us as we look at our automatic thinking processes, how it influences the way we look at race and consider how we might adapt those processes.</p>
<p>The Protest Music of Charles Mingus: Connecting Themes of Racial Justice Across a Half-century</p>	<p>Jazz Ensemble 1 will perform the music of Charles Mingus as part of a presentation on historical and contemporary themes in Mingus's protest music from 1959 - 1979.</p>
<p>Music Legacy: The Impact of the Black Community on Choral Music</p>	<p>This workshop will cover the contributions of African Americans to the genre of choral music from an historical perspective. Through the performance of representational works we hope to expose this quality literature to our audience. There will also be brief commentary as well as Q & A and discussion throughout the workshop.</p>
<p>Who Am I?</p>	<p>Explore the question of, "Who Am I" by looking at all the different groups within which you identify. We will discuss the role of race as it pertains to your identity as well as the identity of others. This workshop will consist of self-reflection and group discussion. We will also read a short article and watch a Ted Talk to help facilitate our conversations.</p>
<p>Examining Interracial Romance in Film</p>	<p>In this session, you will watch clips from several movies, including, among others, <i>Shadows</i> (1959) and <i>Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?</i> (1967). Afterwards, you will engage in a discussion as to how film has attempted to represent the "taboo" subject of interracial romance.</p>

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<p>Revisiting a Beloved Classic: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i></p>	<p>Remember reading <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> in middle school? Remember Atticus fighting a corrupt justice system for Tom Robinson's freedom? In this session, we will view clips from the Academy Award-winning film and study a few short passages from the book to determine how well this classic addresses issues of racial justice. We will also compare the plight of Tom Robinson with the recent upheaval over the Laquan McDonald killing.</p>
<p>Sharing Personal Stories About Race</p>	<p>Pairs will share personal experiences of discrimination in an NPR StoryCorps format. We hope members of the audience will afterwards be encouraged to share their own stories or ask questions.</p>
<p>Mass Incarceration</p>	<p>While America comprises roughly 5% of the world's population, it accounts for 25% of the world's prison population. Why? This session will explore the causes and effects of mass incarceration as well as its relationship to race by using the work of Bryan Stevenson, Michelle Alexander, Ta Nehisi Coates and others to better understand how and why America's prison population has risen dramatically in the past few decades.</p>
<p>Moving as a Physical Response to Racism</p>	<p>Using images and text related to racial inequities, this workshop will engage participants in guided movement explorations. The creative process will become a tool by which participants share their racial identities while exploring the multiple perspectives of race.</p>
<p>Ta-Nehisi Coates: A Writer Explores Growing Up Black in America</p>	<p>This workshop will explore some of the ideas in the writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates. We will watch a few interviews with Coates in order to understand some of his thinking about race in America. Then we will have a group discussion aimed at trying to understand those ideas and consider how they relate to systemic racism in our society today.</p>
<p>We Can't Change What We Don't Know: An Individual Exploration of Racial Bias and Cultural Competence</p>	<p>Conversation, friendship, and life force questions of race, identity, and culture out of the subconscious and into reality. This elective is guaranteed to contain spirited, respectful exploration and reflection of the typically unidentified myths held inside and how these perceptions contribute to the current culture of dominance in our lives.</p>
<p>The Zip Code Effect: How Illinois School Funding Perpetuates Oppression</p>	<p>What would your life be like if you were born in a different Illinois zip code? What would your school be like in that zip code? Would that school offer the number of electives, sports and extracurriculars that New Trier offers? Would you have an adviser to check in on you? Come to this session if you want to explore the savage inequalities in Illinois school funding and how we can fix the system!</p>

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Centuries of Stereotypes: Can't Just Shake That Off	While history is, indeed, history, knowing how American mass media has shaped the discussion of race in the United States can hopefully make us more thoughtful consumers of culture today.
The Myth of the Model Minority	This presentation is for those who want to learn about what the Model Minority Myth is and how it has impacted the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. The workshop will focus on how these stereotypes have evolved and been perpetuated and the problems that they cause.
Uncovering Your Thoughts. Why do you think that?	This session will explore how racial biases are subconsciously formed throughout our lives. Our experiences form our thoughts, opinions and biases starting at a very young age. We will explore some of these biases and start to uncover why we think the way we think, and work to challenge these ideas.
Brother Outsider, The Life of Bayard Rustin: The Intersection of Race and Sexual Orientation	Go beyond what you may already know about the Civil Rights Movement and explore the life of an "unknown hero," Bayard Rustin, architect of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the largest non-violent protests in the history of the United States. Despite this illustrious achievement, Rustin was silenced, threatened, arrested and fired from important leadership positions because he was an openly gay man in a homophobic era. Examine the intersection of race and sexual orientation through viewing sections of "Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin" and discussion.
Walk a Mile in My Shoes: Racial Profiling on the North Shore	What does it feel like to be pulled over, driving home every night from New Trier, for being black? What does it feel like to have eyes look down at you if you wear a blue shirt and trousers at New Trier? How does it feel to be thought of as invisible unless you are needed for a favor?
The Dream Speech	Have you seen the "I Have A Dream" speech? This workshop allows you to dig deeper into those famous closing lines. What was the context for these famous words?
Looking at College Through a Different Lens	First generation college students are of many races. Are you wondering about this new experience for yourself OR perhaps for your future roommate (or teachers or classmates)? If so, join us for a session filled with facts, conversation and resource ideas centered around what it is like to be a first generation college student.

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<p>Home, Sweet Home: The Roots of Structural Racism in Housing</p>	<p>Home, sweet home? In this session we will examine the roots of structural racism in housing policy and its long term implications. How have many African Americans been denied the American dream of home ownership and how has the denial of that dream had long term implications for black families hoping to become solidly middle class in America? The session will cover historical practices like redlining during the Great Depression, as well as current predatory lending and real estate steering practices.</p>
<p>Artistic Responses to Racism from a Dance Perspective</p>	<p>Through the use of historical video and audio clips, this session will share examples of how black artists developed a better understanding of their racial identity through the art of dance.</p>
<p>How to Dig Deeper Into the Story of MLK , Race and the Continuing Struggle for Civil Rights</p>	<p>In this session, participants will examine the myriad resources available in the NT Winnetka Library, ranging from primary, historical sources to contemporary fiction and documentaries to better understand the life of Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement.</p>
<p>The DNA of Bias: The Science of American Stereotypes</p>	<p>Do young children see race? What does our DNA say about our race? Let's take a look at the data at hand - science has a lot to say about race, and it might be information that changes the way you think about others.</p>
<p>Mixed Race at New Trier: Presentation and Discussion</p>	<p>This workshop covers a range of topics including code-switching, passing for white/brown/black, and how being mixed-race informs identity formation and privilege. Additional topics related to a mixed-racial experience will be explored as determined by participants' interests.</p>
<p>What's So Funny About Racism?</p>	<p>This workshop will consider the work of several black performers who use comedy to engage audiences in serious racial issues. We will look at video excerpts in order to understand how comedy functions-- how it challenges stereotypes, forces viewers to self-reflect, and explores the boundaries of what is and isn't politically correct.</p>
<p>Media Literacy and the Media's Distorted Lens of Race</p>	<p>Come witness what you do not know you are witnessing !! This session will help you improve your media literacy by examining movies, consumerism and race.</p>
<p>TV Tokenism: The Portrayal of Minorities in Network Dramas</p>	<p>How has the representation of minorities in popular entertainment changed over the course of the 20th century? To what degree does the tokenism in entertainment mirror that of American society?</p>
<p>Western Bias in Science</p>	<p>Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Einstein... Were all of the great discoveries in science made by Greeks and Europeans? Explore the impact of our western bias in the history of science in this discussion session.</p>

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<p>“Blues in the Mississippi Night”: The early lives of Big Bill Broonzy, Memphis Slim, and Sonny Boy Williamson</p>	<p>In this sessions, we will listen to and discuss Alen Lomax’s historic recording of three legenday kings of the Delta Blues: Big Bill Broonzy, Memphis Slim, and Sonny Boy Williams in 1948. How did racism impact their music, and how did the Blues helped them survive brutal southern prison camps of the early 20th century? We will listen to selections from the recordings and discuss a handful of the stories in specific. Several sources for additional information will be presented at the workshop's end.</p>
<p>Race Relations and Social Injustices in Colombia</p>	<p>Colombia is a country with tremendous social injustices, including having the second highest number of internally displaced people in the world, surpassing 5 million. The three main racial groups in Colombia are Amerindian, black, and white. This session will focus on the city of Medellin, its violent past, and how it has made progressive social changes in the last twenty years. The city has undergone major transformations in its transportation and public services to improve the lives of mainly black, poor, and displaced marginalized communities. Using Medellin as an example, the session will include a discussion that compares Medellin’s recent progress to what could be done in Chicago.</p> <p>I am interested in talking about my experiences in Colombia as an enthusiastic visitor, observer, and human rights delegate. Colombia is a country with tremendous social injustices, including having the 2nd highest number of internally displaced people in the world, surpassing 5 million. Socio-economic classes are very marked with race being intrinsically tied. The three main racial groups in Colombia are Amerindian, black, and white.</p> <p>I will focus my session on the city of Medellin, its violent past, and how it has made progressive social changes in the last twenty years. The city has undergone major transformations in its transportation and public services to improve the lives of marginalized communities: mainly black, poor, and</p>
<p>Food Deserts</p>	<p>This seminar with focus on the relationship between food deserts and minority communities in the Chicagoland area. We will look at why food deserts disproportionately affect particular groups of people. We will end with discussions of next steps to create greater equality and access to food.</p>
<p>Representations of the Middle East: Stereotypes and Islamophobia</p>	<p>This session will examine racial stereotypes of Middle Easterners in film, television, news, and current events and how these stereotypes contribute to the Islamophobic climate. We will use the "Pyramid of Hate" model to assess the escalation of anti-Muslim rhetoric, profiling, and hate crimes.</p>

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<p>To Pimp A Butterfly: The Fight for Freedom & The Revolution of Blackness in America</p>	<p>The workshop will focus on critically analyzing literature and music from Black artists in regards to freedom and revolution. The session will also look at works from Dr. Martin Luther King.</p>
<p>How Familiarity Neutralizes Fear</p>	<p>Stereotypes are often based upon our fears. How do we move beyond those stereotypes and really understand others? Ms. Gaber will help participants understand how familiarity can help us move beyond fear to understanding.</p>
<p>Intersections: Where Race and Gender Connect</p>	<p>This session will be led by representatives from the University of Illinois at Chicago's Gender and Sexuality Center. The session will examine the intersections between race and gender and how each impacts one's identity.</p>
<p>Students Organized Against Racism</p>	<p>Learn how to mobilize as students to be agents of change in racial justice and racial equity in your community! Everyone has a part!</p>
<p>A Little Bit of Everything and Nothing</p>	<p>Khalid Herrington is a black Muslim public speaker and currently a teacher at Islamic Foundation School in Villa Park, IL. He was born to an African-American father from the Carolinas and white mother of European descent. Both his parents served in the US Army for over 20 years, and he lived all over the United States growing up. He says that "he has the blessing and curse of being a little bit of everything and nothing". He converted to Islam in 1995 and talks powerfully about his experience as a bi-racial (dark-skinned) black man and, after 1995, as a black Muslim man. He's an humble, wise, and engaging speaker.</p>
<p>Through Love and Empowerment We Can Shine Light on the Darkness of Racism</p>	<p>Dr. Cortez is a professor at Northeastern Illinois University and the author of several books on grassroots organizing. He will speak on how love and empowerment can help us combat systemic racism.</p>
<p>Chicago, It's Singapore - We Need to Talk about Your Race Issue.....</p>	<p>Singapore, one of the most diverse countries in the world, is also its most racially integrated. Four different languages, cultures and people live in relative harmony in this small Asian paradise. We would like to share with you what makes our country so unique when it comes to race, and what Chicago, the most segregated large city in America, can learn from our path.</p>
<p>Dear Mom and Dad, What (Race) Am I?</p>	<p>This session will focus on a conversation of racial classification and identity.</p>

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<p>How much progress have we really made on Civil Rights?</p>	<p>This session will examine the question, "How much progress have we really made on Civil Rights?" through Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Letter To My Son" (from the book <i>Between The World and Me</i>) and through King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." A specific focus will be on examining the impact of mass incarceration on the Black family.</p>
<p>Viewing King Through The Lens of Coates</p>	<p>David Borris is the President of Chicago Area Peace Action, the largest peace and justice group in Chicago. This session will use role playing to understand how the Civil Rights Movement has changed over time, from the abolition of slavery to issues of mass incarceration and access to open housing. Participants will explore to what extent the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act have addressed the problems of systemic racism that we still face today.</p>
<p>Real Talk about Crossing Borders: What It Feels Like to be Out of Your Neighborhood</p>	<p>In this session, participants will explore both their own experiences and those of students from Curt's Cafe, a non-profit organization that provides training, in food service and life skills, for at-risk youth in Evanston. Students from Curt's Cafe will share their experiences and together with participants discuss what life is like in each other's neighborhoods, feelings of being an outsider, and the need of safety in their lives.</p>
<p>Policing in Chicago: Separating Fact from Fiction</p>	<p>Lori Lightfoot is the President of the Chicago Police Board, a board which makes terminations of suspension or termination for serious allegations of police misconduct. She is also the Chair of the Police Accountability Task Force. Currently, the Chicago Police Board is tasked with presenting three candidates for the position of police superintendent to the Mayor of Chicago. Ms. Lightfoot will share her experiences in these roles and discuss the importance of looking beyond short news clips to understand the complexities of investigating police-involved shootings.</p>
<p>How to Talk about Race</p>	<p>Eileen Heineman from Evanston's YWCA will lead a session on developing skills needed to discuss the impact of race and racism on our experiences.</p>
<p>Racism: Where is it hiding and how does it survive?</p>	<p>In an allegedly post-racist era, we take an in depth look at the foundation and creation of racism and how it continues to survive in our world today.</p>
<p>From Special Education to the White House. Writing Your Own Narrative.</p>	<p>Dr. Shawn Robinson is a graduate of New Trier High School. He will discuss his experiences as a black student with a learning disability and how he has found success in the challenges he has faced - success that eventually led to an invitation to the White House.</p>

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<p>Racial Consciousness and Going to College</p>	<p>College is an exciting opportunity to meet people from all over the world with many different perspectives and experiences. College is also a place where debates about issues such as race and racism are common. Are you prepared for this diversity of people, experiences, and opinions? In this session, Ms. Saxman will talk about how to become more racially aware of your own identity as you prepare for and during your time at college.</p>
<p>SOARS - Story of a Rape Survivor</p>	<p>In 1997, Scheherazade Tillet learned that her older sister, Salamishah, was a rape survivor. Seeking to help Salamishah heal from sexual violence, Scheherazade turned to photography and began documenting the various stages of Salamishah's recovery. At the end of the project, Salamishah and Scheherazade decided to team up to write and direct, Story of a Rape Survivor (SOARS), a multimedia performance that stars a diverse cast of musicians, dancers, and stage performers, who bring Scheherazade's photographs and Salamishah's story to life. During this session, Ms. Tillet will share some of this work.</p>
<p>How do we talk about race? A student conversation</p>	<p>Let's talk... about race... with each other. Student leaders from Student Voices in Equity will facilitate a conversation about race. A focus will be on how race impacts us all (even at New Trier). One goal of the session will be do have a casual conversation in a safe space. Students should be ready to participate.</p>
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<p>Womanism and the Intersection of Racial and Gender Equity</p>	<p>We will unravel the shortcomings of "white feminism" and discuss the role of marginalized groups in mainstream feminism. Other topics include the significance of womanism, the work of women of color in the fight for gender equity, and the importance of intersectionality. How can we advance towards better inclusion?</p>
<p>What is Your Privilege?</p>	<p>Participants will walk through a simulation of what it is like to lose privilege and view others who have it. Participants will be given an identity of a different race and will be given the hardships that encompass that race.</p>

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