COVID-19-RELATED ANTI-BIAS EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE

These are extraordinary times. As we adjust to the new realities of remote learning, we are also facing a disturbing rise in bias incidents and hate crimes against the Asian-American community. These incidents have targeted Asian-Americans of all ages across New York City based on false and biased perceptions of COVID-19. The virus of hate can have long-term consequences after the pandemic passes, and it is imperative that we be proactive in confronting it early and ensuring NYC’s commitment to a safe, welcoming city for all.

As educators, we are tasked with creating safe and inclusive spaces for all our students, whether we teach in person or remotely. As always, it is our job to develop empathic and thoughtful individuals who can recognize the value of diversity, particularly in the greatest and most diverse city in the world. This critical job matters now more than ever.

As we adjust to the new reality and you are preparing your lesson plans, we encourage you to incorporate lessons that address the consequences of bias and discrimination. The following resources have been compiled by the Department of Education and the Mayor’s Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) to help initiate discussions with your students and to provide empowering ways to stand up against hate, even in the virtual space. We hope you find them useful.

Thank you for all you are doing to keep our students safe, engaged, and responsible citizens.

RESOURCES AND LESSONS FOR EDUCATORS

RESOURCES RELATED TO COVID-19

- “Coronavirus: Protect Yourself And Stand Against Racism” Lesson plan from Facing History that outlines facts about COVID-19 and gives students the opportunity to explore instances of related discrimination.
- “Coronavirus: Countering Biased Responses” A three-lesson series from Morningside Center with guidelines on how to counter biased or uniformed student responses and to increase student empathy.
- “Guidelines for Addressing the Coronavirus Outbreak” Guidelines from Morningside Center on creating a supportive space for students to discuss coronavirus in an online classroom setting.
- “Speaking Up Against Racism Around the New Coronavirus” Educator resources from Teaching Tolerance on understanding the historical context and confronting racist tropes.
- “The Coronavirus Surfaces Fear, Stereotypes and Scapegoating” Information and resources from ADL on scapegoating throughout history and ways for schools and communities to address it.

HISTORIES OF ASIAN-AMERICAN DISCRIMINATION

- “Asian American Stereotypes”, a lesson plan and toolkit from Teaching Tolerance for discussing the diversity of the Asian-American label.
- Educator resources from Facing History on the legacies of Chinese exclusion and on bearing witness to Japanese internment during WWII.
- Special curriculum unit from ADL for high schoolers on WWII-era Japanese internment.

For questions about educational resources and additional support related to hate crimes, please email RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov. For questions and resources about hate crimes in general, please email the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes at ophc@nyc.cityhall.nyc.
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HISTORIES OF DISCRIMINATION RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH
● Articles on the history of face masks, different cultural associations with face masks, and face masks and anti-Asian discrimination.
● Articles on the history of anti-Asian xenophobia during public health emergencies, scapegoating during times of health crisis, and why viruses are no longer named after places.
● How to Survive the Plague, award-winning documentary and question guide on homophobia and the AIDS crisis; “Anti-Judaism before the Enlightenment”, Facing History resource on anti-Jewish scapegoating during the Bubonic Plague

MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES
● Comics: “The Wuhan I Know”, online comic about growing up in Wuhan before the coronavirus; “Exploring the New Coronavirus”, a popular PBS comic zine for students, also available in Chinese.
● Audio: NPR Podcast, “As Coronavirus Spreads, Racism and Xenophobia Are Too”; “Lost in Translation”, Filipino-American history as a spoken word poem.
● Multimedia: The Orange Story, digital humanities platform on Japanese internment using primary sources; A Lens Into the Past, Kennedy Center lesson plan using photographs to understand the lives of 20th century immigrants.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON HATE ONLINE
● Digital Citizenship curriculum from Common Sense with cyberbullying and online hate speech lesson plans.
● “Addressing Hate Online: Countering Cyberhate with Counterspeech” High-school lesson plan from ADL on recognizing and responding to online hatred.
● “Five Ways to Counter Extremists on Social Media” How-to resource sheet and accompanying question sheet from the Tannenbaum Center.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON RESPONDING TO BIAS
● “How to Respond to Coronavirus Racism” and “Speak Up! Responding to Everyday Bigotry” Detailed guide from Teaching Tolerance on how to speak out against xenophobia and racism in a range of different settings.
● “Anti-Bias Tools and Strategies” A wide range of tools and strategies from ADL for educators and families to promote safe and inclusive learning environments.
● “Show Up: Your Guide to Bystander Intervention” Bystander guide from Hollaback! on how to intervene when you see harassment.
● The Center for Anti-Violence Education (CAE) online workshops training youth to become upstanders against COVID-related scapegoating and discrimination. Available May 1.

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