

A CONVERSATION ABOUT GROWING UP BLACK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSAw51caEeg>



SYNOPSIS

In this short opinion documentary, young Black/African American men explain the particular challenges they face growing up in America.

Key Themes: Racism, Black/African American Experience, Racial Profiling, Personal Narrative, Opinion Documentary

Runtime: 5:10 minutes
 Genre: Short
 Country: United States
 Rating: NR
 Grades: 6-12

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Joe Brewster, M.D. is an American psychiatrist and filmmaker who directs and produces fiction films, documentaries and new media focused on the experiences of communities of color.

Perri Peltz is an Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker, journalist and public health advocate.

PRE-SCREENING

DISCUSSION

1. A personal narrative is an individual communicating their experience on a particular subject. What is your experience being a [insert grade level] in America? How are your class's experiences the same/different?
2. An opinion documentary is a collection of personal narratives about a common shared experience. What shared experiences has the entire class/community experienced in the last three years in common? Where do those experiences differ?
3. What is your understanding of the definition of "racism?" Why is it still an issue in today's society?

POST-SCREENING

DISCUSSION

1. After hearing young Black/African American men describe their experiences in America, how did your perceptions of individual experiences growing up in America change?
2. Why do you think the film chose to have the children address their parents at the end of the film? What impact did it have on you as a viewer?
3. What steps can you take to celebrate diversity and exhibit inclusivity in your community?

ACTIVITIES

Create a Class Opinion Documentary. Have the class record their experience "growing up," sharing their challenges, hopes, and message to their parents/guardians. Share the experiences with the class to identify common themes and themes unique to individuals' experiences.

Make a Class Diversity Pledge. Have the students craft a pledge to exhibit loving kindness and celebration of diversity. Start by writing the statement "We Pledge to...." on the board and have the class come up and each write one statement on how they promise to exhibit loving kindness, celebrate diversity, and be inclusive.

TO READ

[Discussing Racism with Children](#)
[10 Resources for Teaching Anti-Racism](#)