

FANTASY WORLD PRESENTS...

# WHITE 2 WHITE CONVERSATION TOPICS

## LET'S USE OUR VOICES

**We as white people have many privileges. One way to weaponize our privilege against systems of oppression is to use our voices.** We have white audiences that members of the Black community may not have. Let's use our voices and privilege to amplify messages to our white peers who may not be listening closely to Black voices. Let's urge them to listen to Black stories more intently.

**Lean into the discomfort of these topics.** We often feel uncomfortable talking about racism with white peers, but without challenging that discomfort, we cannot contribute to meaningful change. Black people live with the discomfort of not being heard every day.

**If we remain silent, we are enabling racism.**

## PROXIMITY TO BLACK PEOPLE DOES NOT ERASE OUR WHITE PRIVILEGE

If our white peers or family members begin to express that they are not racist because they have Black friends, let's remind them that we cannot use our Black friends, children, spouses, or any Black person to mask our white privilege. No matter how many Black friends, partners, employers, or family members we have, as white people we will always benefit from our white privilege.

## DEFEND BLACK INDIVIDUALS PROTESTING

Our white peers will often say things like "rioting, looting, and violence won't get us anywhere." Let's express to our white peers that Black individuals have been speaking peacefully and kneeling for years while seeing no justice or change. Ask them if they value merchandise over Black lives. Remind them that we can never relate to Black individuals' anger because we have never experienced Black trauma. Remind them that anger is a direct reaction to trauma caused by white people. Explain the ways in which looting/rioting can be a language for those who are unheard. Explain the many ways in which white people have stolen from Black people through wage theft, lack of housing, lack of healthcare, etc.

## COLOR BLINDNESS

"I don't see color" is a damaging message to this movement. Explain the ways in which seeing color is important in differentiating our privilege. Our experiences differ greatly from those of Black people, and statements such as "we are all one race" or "we're all human beings" are detrimental in understanding how we can bring about justice and protect the rights of Black people.

## **“NOT ALL COPS ARE BAD”**

Talk to family members and peers about how our experiences with cops come from a privileged lens. Talk to them about how we benefit from experiences with cops. Suggest that their reasoning for thinking not all cops are bad is likely because a cop has not harmed or intimidated them. Give several examples of how Black people have suffered at the hands of police. Remind them that when an individual chooses to become a cop, they have chosen to be complicit and to participate in a system that harms Black individuals. Research the history of the American police system and learn how it was started to enforce slavery.

## **“WE LIVE IN A POST RACIAL WORLD”**

This statement serves to minimize the experience of Black communities today, and ignores that racism goes beyond individual intentions to collective group patterns. Talk about how mainstream media works to concurrently uphold a (false) a common narrative that systemic violence and racism are no longer significant barriers to success in our nation/world.

## **WHITE PRIVILEGE AND SYSTEMIC RACISM IN HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Engage in conversations about ways in which we have benefited directly from systems such as healthcare, education, and the justice system. Read up on statistics regarding the ways in which Black people do not benefit from these systems and use these facts as tools. Discuss this with white peers to help better understand how racists structures contribute to the oppression of Black people. A great resource doc can be found in this section of the full guide.

## **LEARN TOGETHER**

If you have friends and family members who are interested in learning and working towards anti-racism, choose a piece of literature/ film/ podcast to listen to together or separately. Talk about what you learned from it, hold each other accountable for doing this on a regular basis. You can use the Fantasy World anti-racism guide as a great starting point for a selection of linked articles + PDFs.

**FOR COMPLETE GUIDE AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.PFW.GUIDE](http://www.pfw.guide)**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER.**

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