

— 2022-2024 —

ADDRESSING ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

WORKSHOPS FOR
GRADE 7 -12 STUDENTS

ABOUT ALPHA EDUCATION

ALPHA Education's mission is to foster critical inquiry of the often overlooked history of World War II in Asia, in advancing the values of justice, peace and reconciliation, both for survivors of the past and for those who shape the present and future: their historical legacy and impact.

Founded in 1997, ALPHA Education has grown into a global leader and influencer of peace, social justice, and humanity by promoting the study, research, and remembrance of the history of WWII in Asia.

By representing and focusing on the humanity side of history, we explore social justice issues such as racism, discrimination and hate, gender bias and violence, ethics and empathy, identity and belonging. Visit www.alphaeducation.org

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WHY WORKSHOPS ON ANTI-ASIAN RACISM?

- Racism affects us all, whether we are the targets or not.
- Experiences of racism and oppression by historically marginalized groups differ in form, saliency, and consequences, but all result in lasting impact on individuals and their communities.
- Discrimination, racism, and hate on any one group erode the fabric and identity of Canada as an inclusive and multicultural society.
- Stories of resistance to, advocacy against, and dismantling of historical and contemporary structural racism, erasure, and exclusion provide empowering examples on human rights and responsibilities.
- Anti-racism activism and activists serve as lessons and models of our deeper humanity.
- Centering the contributions by racialized communities to the development of Canada and "first voice" addresses the representation gaps in learning resources and curriculum.
- Contributes to culturally relevant and responsive education and equity-centric thinking classrooms.



FRAMEWORKSHOPS USED IN DESIGNING LEARNING

- Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy 2009
- Teaching Human Rights in Ontario - A Guide for Ontario Schools OHRC 2013
- Historical Thinking Concepts: Ontario History Society & Ontario History & Social Sciences Teachers Assoc.
- Culturally Relevant Responsive Pedagogy



WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

1. Identity and Belonging

Asian Canadians come from many countries in the vast Asian continent. This workshop explores identity, community, and intersectionality. Through interactive activities and discussions, students examine monolithic myths, stereotypes, and false narratives about Asian Canadians and internalized racism. We explore erasure, invisibilization, silence and voice with a focus on belonging and well-being to reframe our thinking and sense of self and community. This workshop upholds all students' identities, supporting students to develop critical perspectives to challenge societal inequities.

2. Unlearning Bias and Discrimination

By examining stereotype tropes, and engaging in interactive reflection activities, this workshop uses a socio-ecological framework to challenge students to question "them vs us" / othering language and behaviors. More importantly, critical thinking discussions on language and echo chambers and their endemic harm, which is often invisible, will encourage students to question racist assumptions; as social actors and contributors to equity, inclusion, and diversity in Canadian society. Key takeaways from this workshop include: everyone can be an anti-racist and every small act matters.

3. Xenophobia and Refugees

This workshop examines the connections between refugees and xenophobia through the history of the Komagata Maru in 1914, the Vietnamese refugees of 1974-76, and more recently refugees from Syria. We examine the role of mass media and click-bait news on social media on disinformation, and misinformation and how together they contribute to xenophobia. Case-study activities will develop student recognition of the dangers of single stories, perspective-taking, empathy, and equity thinking. Students will also recognize that as Canadians, there are more that we have in common than what divides us.

4. Suitcase of Lived Experiences

Racism experienced by different racialized populations differs in form, saliency, and consequences. Understanding various histories of racism is an important aspect of developing historical, cultural literacy. Discussion on structural racism will examine power dynamics and its impact within its historical context and how and what has changed with the evolution of a multicultural Canada. These questions are examined through migration stories of Asian Canadians, their changing conditions due to policies, and their positive contributions to the development of Canada.

The above are examples of workshops ALPHA Education provides on anti-Asian racism. Modifications will be made based on teachers' requests and learning outcomes for their students.

For further information, please contact info@alphaeducation.org



“Our differences are no longer considered proof of an irreconcilable fact, but as part of what relates us, makes us beautiful, complex and creative.”
Edouard Glissant, *One World in Relation*

KEY CONCEPTS

Identity
Community
Intersectionality
Power Dynamics

Critical Literacy
Equity Perspectives
Personal
Engagement
Social Justice Action

Voice
Allyship
Hope
Optimism

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

Workshops can be customized to be 60 - 75 minutes in length; in-person or virtual.

ALPHA Education uses Zoom to conduct its virtual workshops, but it is open to using other platforms if necessary, such as Google Meet and Microsoft Teams.

If the workshop is offered in-person, the classroom will need stable wifi and internet access. If the workshop is offered virtually, students will need a stable and reliable internet connection.

Chat and raise hands functions will be used in virtual workshops for students to ask questions, and to make comments and connections.

Once a date has been set for a workshop, Sophie Zhou, Education & Research Associate, will liaise with the teacher to understand the teacher's learning goals for their students and relevant details.

BOOKING INFORMATION

- Workshop(s) is/are best booked minimally three to four weeks in advance. Please fill out the booking information form and send it to sophie.zhou@alphaeducation.org
- Sophie Zhou, Education & Research Associate, will contact and follow up with the teacher.

For workshops for staff, parents and caregivers, please contact info@alphaeducation.org

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