

AWARE-LA

Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere - Los Angeles

~ www.awarela.org ~

Content Resources

Each AWARE-LA Saturday Dialogue includes a 75 minute content section. The “Ask-It Basket” format is the only one that requires minimal planning and/or expertise. The other formats can require a fairly sophisticated level of skill and analysis to implement well. (See the [Dialogue Agenda Construction](#) page for descriptions of all four format types.) It can be challenging for facilitators who are willing to create a dialogue, but recognize they don’t yet have the workshop development skills and/or analysis to design a new content piece each month.

While it is okay to get a group started by beginning with a few months of the “Ask-It Basket” format, this is not sustainable. After a few months, participants will become bored answering the same questions amongst each other. New ideas that advance the conversation and learning will be necessary.

This document provides links to resources a group can incorporate within the content portion of each meeting. What follows are some suggestions for pre-existing content that can be embedded (in whole or in part) into dialogues. Some provide a years’ worth of content, while others might be taken in bite-sized chunks that could be used sporadically over an extended time period. Facilitators still need to take time to review the material and ensure understanding prior to implementation. However, these resources provide a jump start for the process.

[Witnessing Whiteness](#)

FREE RESOURCE --- For groups who want to create a shared understanding around issues of whiteness, white privilege, and white racial identity, the book *Witnessing Whiteness* and its companion curriculum may be a good first step. Groups can dedicate a series of months engaging with the book, chapter-by-chapter, and utilize exercises from the online curriculum during meetings as the content portion. The workshop series comes with facilitator’s notes, agendas, and handouts already prepared and ready for use. The published agendas provide guidance for how facilitators can use select exercises if they only have a short period of time to engage. (For transparency: an AWARE-LA member and Saturday Dialogue facilitator, Shelly Tochluk, is the author of this resource.)

[White Awake](#)

FREE RESOURCE --- White Awake is an online platform, and growing network of trainers and practitioners, focused on anti-racist, popular education for white people. The website hosts a

growing collection of educational resources that integrate contemplative spiritual practice, and various forms of embodied and/or heart based work, with historical analysis and intellectual rigor. White Awake's online manual includes guidance on best practices when leading group work (such as a study group, workshop, etc), and offers several different curricula that can be drawn upon for designing something unique to your situation. White Awake also hosts a blog, and supports facilitators of educational work through an international leadership network. The goal of the project is to "supplement work already being done – within activist networks, spiritual communities, and other social arenas – such that spiritual, educational, and cultural change is fully integrated into white people's participation in collective liberation struggle."

White Privilege: Let's Talk - A Resource for Transformational Dialogue

FREE RESOURCE --- This online resource guide includes a full curriculum for six gatherings along with facilitator guides. It specifically targets issues relevant to church groups with a Christian focus. However, there are many issues and exercises within the series that reflect U.S. cultural issues that are broadly experienced, such that they may still support groups that do not have a strictly Christian orientation.

Birth of a White Nation

FREE VIDEO RESOURCE --- This 35 minute video concisely highlights the main points from the book, *Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and its Relevance Today*, by Jacqueline Battalora. If the group has access to the internet, a projector, screen, and speakers, watching this video and then doing a small and large group discussion process could be very valuable.

Articles and Blogs to Support Content Pieces for the Broad Question Format

The creation of a broad question format content piece becomes easier and easier with practice. An approach (that can be replicated time and again) is to begin with an individual, silent review of a *short* piece of content (article, set of quotes, blog, news report, etc.) that treat a specific issue worthy of exploration. After 5-10 minutes, move into small groups for a 20 to 25 minute small group discussion. The key to generating a rich discussion are the questions you provide. A few basic questions, regardless of the content, could be the following:

1. *How does this content involve privilege, racism, etc.?*
2. *How does this content relate to my personal life history and experience?*
3. *How does this content relate to my experiences in community (family, work, school, etc.)?*
4. *How does this content relate to our larger societal structures?*

After 20-25 minutes, gather in a large group to debrief and discuss. Our experience is that a general share out is unhelpful, as people don't want to repeat what they've already said. So, generating a new set of questions that deepen the conversation is essential. (The development of deep, meaningful questions that logically flow from one to the other is what takes skill. We all have to start somewhere, and it's a learning process for all of us, and so with reflection

facilitators will learn over time what works and what falls flat.) Some general starter questions that go beyond the initial questions could be the following:

1. *How can this content propel us to make changes within ourselves?*
2. *What does this content require us to do differently in our communities?*
3. *What actions are being taken by those working on this issue? How are we called to participate and/or support?*

This list includes a number of webpages with links to articles and blog posts that offer content that would be useful as single event discussions using a broad question format:

- [White Supremacy Culture](#) – from Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups, by Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun, ChangeWork, 2001
- [Everyday Feminism's posted articles under the "race" category](#) – A collection of blog posts focused on whiteness, its consequences, etc.
- [Everyday Feminism's posted articles under the "privilege" category](#) – A collection of blog posts that go beyond whiteness and provide opportunities to engage the intersections between whiteness and other identities.
- [White Awake Resource Page](#) – A collection of links to articles, books, and videos arranged by category.
- [Articles Specifically Written for White Americans](#) – A collection of links to articles (appears toward the center of the page), any one of which might be a good selection for a deep-dive discussion.
- This list could go on forever. Please note that there are many additional resource lists that offer a mix of books, articles, websites, and organizations that are worthy of exploration. For those who relish having as much info as possible, here is a particularly complete list of [Resources on Race and Racism](#). There are some real gems in here!!!

[Healing from Toxic Whiteness](#)

FOR PURCHASE --- The online course material may be incorporated in any number of ways. One idea is for the facilitators of a dialogue group to register for this online course and move through the 10 module series in advance, reflecting on the process and learning as it goes along. Then, important insights and exercises can be brought to the dialogue group in segments that could fit in the content portion of the dialogue meeting.

[The New Jim Crow – Study Guide](#)

FOR PURCHASE --- From the website: "Drawing from and expanding on the themes of Michelle Alexander's acclaimed best-seller, *The New Jim Crow*, this in-depth guide provides a launching pad for groups wishing to engage in deep, meaningful dialogue about race, racism, and structural inequality in the age of mass incarceration. The Study Guide and Call to Action spans the entirety of *The New Jim Crow*, engaging the critical questions of how we managed to create, nearly overnight, a penal system unprecedented in world history, and how that system actually functions — as opposed to the way it is advertised. This important new resource also challenges us to search for and admit the truth about ourselves, our own biases,

stereotypes, and misconceptions, and the many ways in which we might actually be part of the problem.”

NOTE: *This resource list is a living document. If you have a suggestion regarding another resource that should be added to this list, please email awarela@gmail.com and let us know what we should add. Thanks!*