

Ethnic Studies Lesson Plans: Countering Dominant Narratives

The following lesson plans are a supplement to both ethnic studies and ING's *Intercultural Speakers Bureau* (ICSB) program that brings a panel of live speakers (in person or via webinar) representing different ethnic and religious groups to the classroom to address the interconnections of the various forms of bigotry they confront and what they are doing to combat it. Trained and certified speakers in the program include members of Black, Asian, Latinx, Indigenous, Middle Eastern, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, and Hindu American communities. Lesson plan 11 below includes a presentation by an ICSB panel. The lesson plans introduce the topic of narrative formation about marginalized groups to supplement ethnic studies.

Lesson Plans 1-15

1. Introducing Narratives
2. Introducing Frames Underlying Narratives
3. Introducing Dominant Narratives
4. Origins of Dominant Narratives in Modern History: Colonialism
5. Creation of Race and Racialization
6. Reinforcing Racist Frames in Education
7. Reinforcing Racist Frames in Popular Culture
8. Reinforcing Racist Frames in Governmental Policy
9. Manifestations of Racism: Implicit Bias
10. Manifestations of Racism: Systemic Racism
11. Introducing Counter-Narratives – Panel of Speakers
12. Comparing Dominant Narratives with Counter-Narratives
13. Responding to Racism: Individual Action
14. Responding to Racism: Collective Action
15. Wrapping Everything Together

Themes (how the lessons progress):

- Lessons 1-3: Introducing the concept of “narrative” and of frames underlying narratives that result in “dominant narratives”
- Lessons 4-5: Understanding the history of dominant narratives (origins, racialization, institutionalization)
- Lessons 6-8: Understanding how dominant narratives are reinforced in society (by media, education, government)
- Lessons 9-10: Understanding manifestations of racialization (on groups, on individuals) - systemic racism and individual racism
- Lesson 11-12: Challenging dominant narratives (ethnic studies intervention, addressing red herrings)
- Lesson 13-14: What can we do about it? Calls to action
- Lesson 15: Tying everything together (reflection + looking to the future)