

WHAT IS RACISM?

Understanding Racial Prejudice



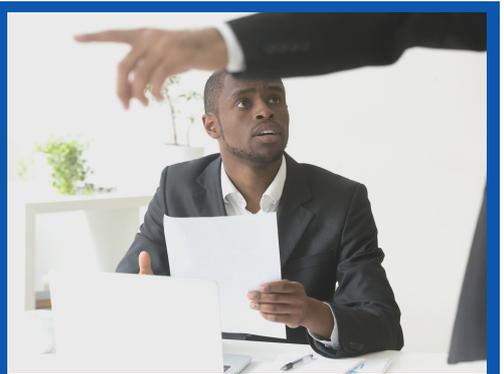
America is a place where people of all skin colors and backgrounds come together to live peacefully. When I look around, I might see people who look and speak differently than I do both in person or when I watch movies, t.v. or on the internet.



It is wonderful that people in my life and all over the world look so different! Even people in my family can look different--we can have different skin tones, eye colors, hair colors, and even height and weight differences.



Some people treat other people badly because they look different than themselves. **Racism** is when people treat other people badly or unfairly because of the color of their skin. They believe that white skin color means they are better people than others who have tan, brown, or black skin tones.



Racism is a very big problem in America, and it has been a problem for a very long time. Racism can be very difficult to talk about for some people, but I know that it is not right to treat people badly just because of how they look or the color of their skin.





Sometimes, when people are treated badly because of racism, they get sad or angry. I know that it hurts my feelings when other people make fun of me or treat me badly too, so I can understand when those people feel sad or angry.



It is important for me to be kind to everyone no matter what they look like, or the color of their skin. I will tell a parent or friend when someone else is saying or doing something mean to somebody because of their skin color, because that is wrong.



If I have questions or feelings about racism, or want to know what is happening around me, I should ask my parents or other trustworthy adults what I can do to understand better. I might even be able to help the people who are being treated unfairly by standing up for them too!



Even though racism can happen when people judge other people based on their skin color, it is important to remember that I should love and care for my friends and family no matter how they look or where they come from!



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