

With All Deliberate Speed

The Legacy of the landmark civil rights cases known as *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*

www.socialstudies.com/pdf/brown.pdf

Teacher/Facilitator's Companion Guide to the Video Program and Discussion Clip

Objectives

- To encourage productive dialogue among adult citizens and student groups of all racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds concerning the challenges confronting America's Public Schools
- To explore through conversation the impact that race, ethnicity, locality and economic opportunity have on student achievement
- To foster greater understanding of lingering problems, including the "achievement gap", that continue to plague many of our students, and to develop new solutions to these problems

Program Content

- Why fifty years after *Brown* many schools remain segregated or are re-segregating
- How race and *racism* may impact student achievement
- How community values and attitudes influence expectations for student achievement
- How parental involvement influences student performance
- How strong, dedicated leadership in schools can influence all students
- Why it is important to create schools where *all* students can achieve

A note to teachers and facilitators:

You can play an important role in helping your group members, employees and students to better understand why it is critical that communities engage in this dialogue! See the *links* page at www.brownvboard.info for resources for further research.

- Achievement levels and graduation rates for students of color remain disproportionately lower than those of white students
- It is important for the future of America's families and communities that we ensure equal educational opportunities for *all* students

- In order to fully comprehend today's educational successes and failures, it is necessary to understand the historical context of the efforts to provide equal educational opportunities to all citizens

Content and Questions for use after viewing:

In 1954, in its landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS*, the United States Supreme Court abolished the legal segregation of students based on race in American public schools.

1. Is segregation based on race still an issue in our public schools? How do you see this manifested?
2. Are all students given equal opportunities to succeed in our public schools?
3. Are race and racism factors that influence student achievement in public schools today?
4. Does racial integration in the classroom better ensure student success?
5. What are the benefits of learning in a diverse classroom? Are there negative aspects as well?
6. Are public *Charter* and *Magnet* schools that seek to accommodate student cultures, interests and talents viable alternatives to "traditional" classroom settings and educational models? Explain why or why not.

In her book entitled, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* Professor Beverly Daniel Tatum discusses the factors that motivate students and others in our society to continue to self segregate.

1. Discuss the concept of "The American Dream". Do all citizens, through education and diligence, truly have equal access to social, educational, and economic opportunity?
2. Given the diversity of our society today, do we know one another as people? What factors in our society inhibit, or encourage, multicultural understanding?
3. What do we know about one another based on the images we see in movies, television programming and music videos? Describe both positive and negative representations of different cultures in the media.
4. Are issues of race and racism talked about in your organization, group or classroom? Among your peers in social situations? Why? Why not?
5. How might talking about these things improve understanding and interaction between co-workers, students and the community at large?
6. What are the benefits of working, studying and living in racially and culturally diverse environments?

National and local studies continue to reveal a gap in achievement between children of color and their white counterparts, but researchers note that there are factors other than race that can strongly influence educational outcomes.

1. What are the links between poverty and educational opportunity?
2. Is there a connection between scholastic achievement and living in a home or environment where education is valued?
3. How important is parental involvement to student success? How can communities encourage parental involvement in schools?
4. Is there a disconnection between public schools and parents today? If so, why? Is it based on race? Economic factors?
5. How can the greater public actively engage in improving community schools?
6. What roles do educators play? How important is it to match teacher skills, experience and talent to student populations?
7. What role does early childhood education play in student achievement? What about class size?
8. What can students do to contribute to their own success?
9. What role should the government play in facilitating the opportunity for *all* students to succeed?

Encourage participants to list five ideas for improving communication, interaction and achievement among diverse populations in your organization, workplace, school or community:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

For specific information about how you can organize and facilitate long term activities to address these important issues, contact:

- **The National Conference for Community and Justice** www.nccj.org

The National Conference for Community and Justice is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism in America. NCCJ promotes understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

- **The Study Circles Resource Center**
www.studyircles.org

The Study Circles Resource Center is dedicated to finding ways for all kinds of people to engage in dialogue and problem solving on critical social and political issues. SCRC helps communities by giving them the tools to organize productive dialogue, recruit diverse participants, find solutions, and work for action and change.

**Produced in 2004 as a public service by
Serviam Media, Inc.
305 A Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801**

with support from:

**NCCJ (Delaware Region)
The Primo Lecture Series**

**Distributed by:
Social Studies School Service
10200 Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
800-421-4246**

www.socialstudies.com

Product Code: ZP531V