



Primer

Framing Caucus Groups

1. The theme for Discussion Day 2019 is *Race in America: An Unfinished Project?*
2. When we think of this theme, there may be some things that both support and hinder our ability to engage, connect, heal, and vulnerable. However, if we want to continue our path toward social justice we have to work through that discomfort and navigate the ugliness and beauty to become stronger advocates. **So we will also ask you to consider what allows you to show up vulnerable? What must be present to be fully engaged and in a space to receive the rewards of vulnerability?**
3. Throughout Discussion Day, we will give you the opportunity to get to the core of this issue. We aim to do this, in part, through caucus groups, giving you the opportunity to dialogue with common identities. There will be one time in the afternoon where you will select a community to engage with in the areas of a non-binary identity.
4. Before Discussion Day (or during registration), you indicated which groups you want to connect with to have these caucus group discussions. You will see these identities listed (indicate location). Take a few moments to look at those options.
5. Each group will be no smaller than 2 people and no larger than 10 people.
6. Each group will have a series of questions to help guide discussion. However, the group is free to allow the process to be organic as they like and form questions on their own as long as the focus remains on the topic *Race: An Unfinished Project?* That can be through pointed questions or vulnerable dialogue.
7. These groups will be facilitated only by the participants in the groups.

How do you sign up for a caucus?

Each member will register for caucusing during registration. Members can select up to three groups (primary, secondary, tertiary). The terms primary, secondary, and tertiary are not meant to recognize the salience level of identity, rather to notate to the planning team where you are most likely to spend your time (i.e., do your own work around racial justice and decolonization)



When do caucuses take place?

Caucuses take place during Discussion Day (Wednesday, February 20, 2019) from 2pm-3:15pm.

What if I want to do something else during a caucus time?

Members are free to do anything they wish during the times assigned for caucusing but in order to get the most of this Discussion Day and to receive VIA credit, attendees must be present for a caucus session.

Who else is in my caucus?

Each caucus should be 2-10 people in size and will only consist of people who share a racial/political identity with you. Identity is complex. Multiraciality, transracial identity, phenotypical variations, and other social forces means people in your group will look and have lived experiences that diverge from your understandings. This is welcome. Therefore, there may be people in your group who you do not perceive to be of the same identity. Your role as a caucus attendee is not to challenge any person's "eligibility" to caucus with the group. Rather, one may inquire about a person's experiences to better illuminate their story. ***Importantly, however, we do not condone any sort of "voyeurism" of people in a caucus group if you do not authentically identify with those in that identity group.***

Can I engage in a caucus with a group of people with whom I do NOT identify with?

We do not condone any sort of "voyeurism" of people in a caucus group if you do not authentically identify with those in that identity group. These spaces are meant to be in-group spaces to process through the work of racial justice and decolonization and may be disrupted if a person who does not identify enters the space making that space an unsafe space for authentic dialogue.

Therefore, to attend a Black/African American caucus group, you must identify as Black/African American, etc. Multiracial/biracial/transracial attendees may move in between spaces that align with their multiple identities. The same is true for any other person who may have multiple identities in line with the caucus groups identified for this convention. Identity, particularly racial and political identity, is extremely complex and may cause dissonance for members who are not



familiar with the wide array of identities and presentations of those identities. We encourage all members to refrain from judgment and policing of one's identities and to enter caucus spaces open, inquisitive, and with care. Caucus groups can be spaces to share stories and strategies toward solidarity for liberation.

If you feel that somebody does not belong in a particular group, please notify the facilitator of your group or room, and they will assess the situation.

I need to learn more about race. Where can I get more information?

The Discussion Day committee is putting together some resources to allow self-guided learning around a set of topics leading up to caucusing at Discussion Day. We hope each person has an opportunity to utilize these resources for self-development. Attendees should work through the list of resources in order listed as the materials as they are provided in order of developmental complexity.

Will there be opportunities for continuing engagement around these topics after Discussion Day?

Manchester University is preparing future opportunities to continue the discussion on this topic. There will also be other opportunities to engage this topic at the new Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Is there a place I can receive counseling services if I feel any sort of distress as a result of caucusing?

We encourage any members who are experiencing distress to visit their campus mental health service or their local mental health provider. At Manchester, our Wellness Services office can be reached by calling (260) 982-5306 between 8am-5pm EST. If you require immediate services, you may call [\(800\) 273-8255](tel:8002738255) or text "ANSWER" to 839863 for the Crisis Call Center 24/7/365 line. Crisis Call Center's 24-hour crisis line often serves as the first point of contact for individuals who are seeking help, support, and information. This service is free, though standard messaging and call minutes usage may apply.