

IDERD 21 March 2025

Lesson Plan



Lesson Plan for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD): Years 9 - 10

Please note: This content may be distressing for students, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and other students negatively impacted by racism. Please take this into account when preparing your lessons and consider additional classroom support. Before teaching this lesson, it is important to know the individual needs of students and have prepared strategies for supporting their learning and emotional and social wellbeing.

Australian Curriculum Outcomes

AC9HP10P01 - Analyse factors that shape identities and evaluate how individuals influence the identities of others

AC9HP10P05 - Propose strategies and actions individuals and groups can implement to challenge biases, stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination, and promote inclusion in their communities

AC9HP10P10 - Plan, justify and critique strategies to enhance their own and others' health, safety, relationships and wellbeing

1. Read the [IDERD factsheet for schools](#) together as a class.
2. Organise small groups of three or four students and prompt them to discuss the questions below. Please note the 'teacher reference' provided at the end of this activity – this will assist teachers with scaffolding the following discussions.
 - What do you think systemic racism means? Consider:
 - Do you think systemic racism comes from an individual or a group?
 - Do you think systemic racism is upheld by leaders and decision-makers, or a group of your peers?
 - Do you think systemic racism is a one-off occurrence, or something that is ongoing and hard to avoid?
 - Below are two examples of discrimination. Discuss which you think is interpersonal, and which one you think is systemic. Explain your answer.

- Example 1: A student not being considered for the lead role in a school play because they speak English with an accent.
 - Example 2: A student using offensive language toward another student directed at their cultural background.
 - Why do you think systemic racism might be easier to “hide” than interpersonal racism, such as race-based insults and harassment?
3. Come together as a class and nominate a student from each group to share insights from the discussion that has just occurred.

Teacher Reference

Interpersonal racism refers to racism that occurs in everyday interactions. This can be between individuals or groups and is what most people recognise as racism. It can take many forms, such as abusive language, harassment, exclusion or humiliation. Interpersonal racism might also be expressed through casual remarks or jokes.

Systemic racism is the way a society or institution’s culture, laws, policies, and practices result in unfair treatment and outcomes. Systemic racism involves entire systems, for example, legal, health, education, criminal justice, and the structures that support these.

Example: The difference in health outcomes based on race (see the ‘Closing the Gap Information Repository’ for more information: <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard>). Racism impacts people’s health, the quality of treatment and care that they receive. Evidence shows differences in life expectancy experienced by people of different races.

4. Break students up into four groups, and prompt them to discuss the questions below with reference to one of the four resources highlighted within the factsheet.
- a. Do you think Harmony Day/Week accurately reflects the way people experience racism in Australia? How does it and/or doesn’t it?
 - b. How have communities negatively impacted by racism indicated ‘Harmony Day’ and ‘Harmony Week’ make them feel?
 - c. What action do you think your school should take for this year’s International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination?

Group 1: <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/its-the-day-for-elimination-of-racism-why-does-australia-call-it-harmony-day/nrexxh21>

Group 2: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-21/harmony-day-apartheid-south-africa-sharpeville-massacre/102110328>

Group 3: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-23/talking-about-racism-during-celebration-of-harmony-week/100925672>

Group 4: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-20/harmony-week-from-the-schoolyard-to-corporate-australia/102110422>