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CHAPTER 1 Race in the Twenty-First Century

MAIN POINTS

- Explain why one should avoid the individualistic fallacy, the legalistic fallacy, the tokenistic fallacy, the ahistorical fallacy, and the fixed fallacy, when thinking about racism.
- Distinguish between institutional racism and interpersonal racism and understand how these types of racism often interpenetrate and inform one another.
- Understand what is meant by symbolic violence and explain its significance for the perpetuation of racial inequality.
- Understand how racism intersects with other forms of social division—those based on gender, class, sexuality, religion, nationhood, and ability.
- Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological foundation for race.
- Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and reproduces many privileges for white people.
- Recognize how race and ethnicity are overlapping symbolic categories and explain why they cannot be collapsed into one category.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- Which of the five fallacies or misconceptions about racism best describes this example?
 "Your friend does not believe that racial segregation in schools is a problem today. After all, she argues, the courts ruled segregated education unconstitutional many decades ago."
 - a. tokenistic fallacy
 - b. legalistic fallacy
 - c. ahistorical fallacy

d. individualistic fallacy

ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century MSC: Remembering

OBJ: Explain why one should avoid the individualistic fallacy, the legalistic fallacy, the tokenistic fallacy, the ahistorical fallacy, and the fixed fallacy, when thinking about racism.

- 2. Which of the five fallacies or misconceptions about racism best describes this example? "You read a newspaper article on changing racial attitudes declaring that young adults ages eighteen to twenty-four are the least racist in American history. While you hope this is true, you are worried that the research is using a static definition of 'racism.'"
 - a. fixed fallacy
 - b. legalistic fallacy
 - c. tokenistic fallacy
 - d. individualistic fallacy

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century MSC: Remembering

OBJ: Explain why one should avoid the individualistic fallacy, the legalistic fallacy, the tokenistic fallacy, the ahistorical fallacy, and the fixed fallacy, when thinking about racism.

- 3. Sometimes speakers invoke examples of individuals—say, Madame C. J. Walker, Oprah Winfrey, or Barack Obama—to suggest that if these individuals were able to triumph over racial barriers, the path is clear for everyone. What type of fallacy best describes such thinking?
 - a. fixed fallacy
 - b. legalistic fallacy

- c. ahistorical fallacy
- d. tokenistic fallacy

ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century MSC: Remembering

OBJ: Explain why one should avoid the individualistic fallacy, the legalistic fallacy, the tokenistic fallacy, the ahistorical fallacy, and the fixed fallacy, when thinking about racism.

- 4. One of the fundamental tenets of the ______ is that history does not structure our experiences and that these experiences can either compound as advantages—or privileges—or increase barriers to opportunities. What type of fallacy best describes such thinking?
 - a. ahistorical fallacy
 - b. legalistic fallacy
 - c. tokenistic fallacy
 - d. individualistic fallacy

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century

MSC: Remembering

OBJ: Explain why one should avoid the individualistic fallacy, the legalistic fallacy, the tokenistic fallacy, the ahistorical fallacy, and the fixed fallacy, when thinking about racism.

- 5. Which of the following best summarizes the process by which systemic white domination of people of color occurs?
 - a. racial domination
 - b. institutional racism
 - c. white privilege

d. symbolic violence

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century

MSC: Understanding

OBJ: Distinguish between institutional racism and interpersonal racism and understand how these types of racism often interpenetrate and inform one another.

- 6. According to the textbook, what are two key forms of racial domination?
 - a. institutional racism and white privilege
 - b. institutional racism and political domination
 - c. institutional racism and interpersonal racism
 - d. interpersonal racism and white privilege

ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century MSC:

Remembering

OBJ: Distinguish between institutional racism and interpersonal racism and understand how these types of racism often interpenetrate and inform one another.

- 7. Which of the following is a key feature of symbolic power?
 - a. the ability to categorize and name
 - b. the ability to determine salaries and wages
 - c. the ability to draw upon social networks
 - d. brute force

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century MSC:

Remembering

OBJ: Understand what is meant by symbolic violence and explain its significance for the perpetuation of racial inequality.

8. According to the textbook, which of the following best defines "racial domination"?

a. Racial domination is characterized by overt coercion and violence.

b. Racial domination is an organizing force in society that disproportionately offers

benefits to some groups and not others.

c. Racial domination is often necessarily the conscious intention of those who benefit from

it.

d. none of these

ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century

MSC: Understanding

OBJ: Understand what is meant by symbolic violence and explain its significance for the

perpetuation of racial inequality.

9. Raul is an African American, but he has many other social identities in addition to his racial

identity. He is also a young, middle-class college student who identifies as bisexual. Rather

than thinking of any particular racial group as a monolithic category, scholars who take an

intersectional approach pay attention to:

a. how multiple dimensions in individual lives intersect

b. prioritizing identities and social locations by economic importance

how individuals manage narratives about their lives

d. understanding which type of oppression is more important than others

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century

MSC: Applying

OBJ: Understand how racism intersects with other forms of social division—those based on

gender, class, sexuality, religion, nationhood, and ability.

10.	Ra	ce is ofte	n described with re	ference to	_, but there	e is much more genetic
	va	riation wi	thin	groups than bety	ween them.	
	a.	genome	s; DNA			
	b.	biologic	al markers (skin sh	ade, hair texture, etc.); DNA	
	c.	cultures	; traditionally-defin	ned racial groups		
	d.	biologic	al markers; traditio	nally-defined racial g	groups	
	Aì	NS: D	DIF: Moderate	REF: A Biological	Reality?	MSC: Applying
	OF	BJ: Learn	why race is a symb	polic category and unc	derstand wh	y there is no biological
	fou	undation	for race.			
11.	Ins	stitutional	l racism is facilitate	ed by different types of	of power. W	hich of the following is one
	of	these mo	des of power?			
	a.	cultural	power			
	b.	political	power			
	c.	military	power			
	d.	physical	power			
	Aì	NS: B	DIF: Moderate	REF: American Ra	cism in the	Twenty-First Century
	M	SC: Remo	embering			
	OF	BJ: Under	rstand how racism i	ntersects with other for	forms of soc	ial division—those based on
	ge	nder, clas	s, sexuality, religio	n, nationhood, and ab	oility.	
12.	As	it relates	to racial domination	on, symbolic power is	best descri	bed as:
	a.	the pow	er to define and cla	ssify groups as norma	al or aberrar	nt
	b.	the pow	er to legally withho	old basic rights from o	certain grou	ps
	c.	the pow	er to privilege whit	es over others in term	ns of access	to employment and the

accumulation of wealth

d. the power to deny people of color membership in desirable associations

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century

MSC: Remembering

OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological foundation for race.

13. Which of the following statements about institutional racism and interpersonal racism is accurate?

a. Institutional racism is overt, while interpersonal racism is embedded in social practices at work in schools, politics, and law enforcement.

b. Institutional racism often quietly privileges some groups (for example, by highlighting the accomplishments of the dominant group in school curricula), while interpersonal racism is more overt.

c. Neither institutional nor interpersonal racism is necessarily overt; both forms of racism often operate in the habitual commonsense and largely unconscious practices of daily life.

d. Both institutional and interpersonal racism are consciously chosen ways of acting in social settings and in creating social order.

ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century

MSC: Analyzing

OBJ: Distinguish between institutional racism and interpersonal racism and understand how these types of racism often interpenetrate and inform one another.

14. Prejudice surrounds us, and people of color may internalize negative attitudes aimed at their

	own racial group. Psychologists describe this as "internalized oppression," while sociologist		
	Pierre Bourdieu labels it:		
	a. unconscious oppression		
	b. internalized racism		
	c. symbolic violence		
	d. interpersonal racism		
	ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century		
	MSC: Understanding		
	OBJ: Understand what is meant by symbolic violence and explain its significance for the		
	perpetuation of racial inequality.		
15.	The cartoon below offers us an insightful look at how can take form in		
	everyday interactions.		
	a. interpersonal racism		
	b. institutional racism		
	c. symbolic violence		
	d. legalistic fallacy		
	ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century		
	MSC: Analyzing		
	OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and		
	reproduces many privileges for white people.		
16.	Historically, racial oppression has been justified through explanations grounded in scientific		
	language. Modern scientists tell us that we share percent of the same genes with		
	other humans and there is much greater genetic variation within traditionally defined racial		

	groups than among them.			
	a. 99.9			
	b. 88.7			
	c. 79.9			
	d. 65.0			
	ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Remembering			
	OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological			
	foundation for race.			
17.	While many people assume that "obvious physical differences" explain racial categories,			
	this logic fails to appreciate:			
	a. that classificatory schemes are not rigidly linked to skin tones			
	b. physical traits vary enormously among those who are classified as the same race			
	c. classification schemes vary widely, both historically and across national boundaries			
	d. all of these			
	ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Remembering			
	OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological			
	foundation for race.			
18.	A is a social and symbolic hierarchical system of classification			
	and social division that organizes people into rigid groups.			
	a. racial hierarchy			
	b. caste system			
	c. phenotypical classification			
	d. genetic variation			

	ANS: B	DIF: Easy	REF: A Biological Reality?	MSC: Remembering		
	OBJ: Learn	n why race is a	symbolic category and understa	and why there is no biological		
	foundation	for race.				
19.	is best described as the argument that social and economic differences					
	between ra	ces are the resu	lt of immutable, inherited, and	inborn distinctions.		
	a. Biologi	ical determinisr	n			
	b. Social	constructivism				
	c. Institut	ional racism				
	d. Interpe	rsonal racism				
	ANS: A	DIF: Easy	REF: A Biological Reality?	MSC: Remembering		
	OBJ: Unde	erstand how rac	ism intersects with other forms	of social division—those based on		
	gender, cla	ss, sexuality, re	ligion, nationhood, and ability.			
20.	Stephen Jay Gould argues that reappears, even when disproven, during					
	eras of poli	itical retrenchm	ent or during times when elites	are fearful of changes to their		
	status.					
	a. social o	constructivism				
	b. institut	ional racism				
	c. biologi	cal determinisn	1			
	d. interpe	rsonal racism				
	ANS: C	DIF: Modera	te REF: A Biological Reali	ty? MSC: Remembering		
	OBJ: Unde	erstand how rac	ism intersects with other forms	of social division—those based on		
	gender, cla	ss, sexuality, re	ligion, nationhood, and ability.			
21.	In the Unit	ed States, white	eness is the1	racial category, that with which all		

	other categories are compared and contrasted.			
	a. normal			
	b. dominant			
	c. exclusionary			
	d. cultural			
	ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Remembering			
	OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and			
	reproduces many privileges for white people.			
22.	Which explanation for why are whites less likely than people of color to identify themselves			
	in racial terms is discussed in the textbook?			
	a. Whites often do not think of themselves as belonging to a racial category.			
	b. Whites are less concerned with racism than other groups.			
	c. Whites think of race in biological, not cultural, terms.			
	d. Whites worry that drawing attention to race is impolite.			
	ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Understanding			
	OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and			
	reproduces many privileges for white people.			
23.	is the collection of unearned cultural, political, economic, and social			
	advantages and privileges possessed by people of Anglo-European descent or those who			
	pass as such.			
	a. White privilege			
	b. Racial domination			
	c. Institutional racism			

	d. Caste hierarchy
	ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Remembering
	OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and
	reproduces many privileges for white people.
24.	Race is acategory that is misrecognized as a
	category.
	a. symbolic; cultural
	b. biological; genetic
	c. cultural; biological
	d. symbolic; natural
	ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Remembering
	OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological
	foundation for race.
25.	Which of the following is an example of a homogenizing heading?
	a. Native American
	b. Irish American
	c. Korean American
	d. Italian American
	ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Remembering
	OBJ: Understand how racism intersects with other forms of social division—those based of
	gender, class, sexuality, religion, nationhood, and ability.
26.	The current in the United States delineates five major groups.
	a. homogenizing heading

	b. ethnic variation				
	c. cultural schema				
	d. racial ta	xonomy			
	ANS: D	DIF: Easy	REF: Race is a Social Reality	MSC: Remembering	
	OBJ: Under	stand how raci	sm intersects with other forms of s	ocial division—those based on	
	gender, class	s, sexuality, rel	igion, nationhood, and ability.		
27.	A person's _		is his or her physical appe	earance, including skeletal	
	structure, he	eight, hair textu	are, eye color, and skin tone.		
	a. race				
	b. ethnicity	7			
	c. phenoty	pe			
	d. ancestry				
	ANS: C	DIF: Easy	REF: Race is a Social Reality	MSC: Remembering	
	OBJ: Learn	why race is a s	symbolic category and understand	why there is no biological	
	foundation f	for race.			
28.	A person's _		is his or her family lineag	e, which often includes tribal,	
	regional, or	national affilia	tion.		
	a. race				
	b. ethnicity	7			
	c. phenoty	pe			
	d. ancestry				
	ANS: D	DIF: Easy	REF: Race is a Social Reality	MSC: Remembering	
	OBJ: Recog	nize how race	and ethnicity are overlapping symb	polic categories and explain	

	why they cannot be collapsed into one category.					
29.	The of race organizes people into bounded groupings based on					
	their phenotype,, or both.					
	a. symbolic category; ancestry					
	b. historical development; culture					
	c. visibility; symbolic category					
	d. political history; culture					
	ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Remembering					
	OBJ: Recognize how race and ethnicity are overlapping symbolic categories and explain					
	why they cannot be collapsed into one category.					
30.	Racial categories are bound to their specific social and contexts, meaning that					
	such boundaries are not the same in India as in South Africa.					
	a. economic					
	b. historical					
	c. tribal					
	d. familial					
	ANS: B DIF: Easy REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Remembering					
	OBJ: Recognize how race and ethnicity are overlapping symbolic categories and explain					
	why they cannot be collapsed into one category.					
31.	Comparisons across reveal variation in racial categorization between					
	countries, highlighting the importance of in making race.					
	a. countries; time					
	b. time; place					

	c. homogenizing headings; culture
	d. families; place
	ANS: D DIF: Easy REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Understanding
	OBJ: Recognize how race and ethnicity are overlapping symbolic categories and explain
	why they cannot be collapsed into one category.
32.	Racial categories are when symbolic groupings, the products of specific
	historical contexts, are mistakenly considered natural and immutable.
	a. legal
	b. undermined
	c. naturalized
	d. erased
	ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Understanding
	OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological
	foundation for race.
33.	Although many people think of Tiger Woods as African American, he considers himself
	multiracial and as a child invented the term "Calabanasian" to describe himself. This
	example helps us understand the complex relationship between
	a. ancestry and culture
	b. culture and tribal membership
	c. phenotype and culture
	d. ancestry and phenotype
	ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Analyzing
	OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological

	oundation for race.		
34.	Race, ethnicity, and nationality are mutually overlapping that are mutually	У	
	einforcing and cannot be understood in isolation from one another.		
	. racial categories		
	o. legal categories		
	s. symbolic categories		
	l. cultural categories		
	ANS: C DIF: Easy REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Remembering		
	OBJ: Recognize how race and ethnicity are overlapping symbolic categories and explain		
	why they cannot be collapsed into one category.		
35.	n the United States, often creates distinctions and identities within		
For instance, four people may be considered white, yet they			
have ancestry and cultural traditions originating from different countries, including Poland			
Ireland, England, and Norway.			
a. racial identity; ethnic groups			
	e. ethnicity; racial groups		
	culture; ethnic groups		
	l. racial groups; cultures		
	ANS: B DIF: Moderate REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Applying		
	OBJ: Recognize how race and ethnicity are overlapping symbolic categories and explain		
	why they cannot be collapsed into one category.		
36.	George's father is an African American, and his mother is white American. Mike's father i	S	
	white Italian, and his mother is a white American. Why does Mike have a higher degree	of	

fluidity and freedom when self-identifying ethnically?

- a. because Mike's father is from a different country
- b. because George's black identity is stigmatized
- c. because whites are better at "performing" ethnic identity
- d. because of Mike's personal values

ANS: B DIF: Difficult REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Applying OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and reproduces many privileges for white people.

- 37. In an attempt to resist stigma, some people of color, especially new immigrants, may highlight their ethnicity and resist American ______.
 - a. racial categories
 - b. state classification
 - c. tribal categories
 - d. cultural categories

ANS: A DIF: Moderate REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Remembering OBJ: Understand what is meant by symbolic violence and explain its significance for the perpetuation of racial inequality.

- 38. The Johnson-Reed Act of 1924, with its imposition of national quotas and racial restrictions, contributed to the U.S. racial order by:
 - a. distinguishing all Europeans as part of a white race, distinct from all those considered nonwhite
 - b. blaming immigrants for the rise of urban poverty and class conflict
 - c. creating a symbolic boundary between ancestry and phenotype in racial classification

	d. Producing rigid immigration controls that gave rise to illegal border-crossing			
	ANS: A	DIF: Moderate	REF: Ethnicity and Nationality	MSC: Analyzing
	OBJ: Under	rstand what is mear	nt by symbolic violence and explain	its significance for the
	perpetuation	n of racial inequalit	ty.	
39.	According t	to the historian Ma	e Ngai, laws and policies that made	ethnic or racial identity a
	determining	g factor in the oppo	rtunity to immigrate during the 1920	Os resulted in:
	a. decreas	ing racial identifica	ation for white immigrants	
	b. decreas	ing racial identifica	ation for Latino/a immigrants	
	c. decreasi	ing racial identifica	ation for Caribbean islanders	
	d. decreasi	ing racial identifica	ation for Asian immigrants	
	ANS: A	DIF: Easy RI	EF: Ethnicity and Nationality M	ISC: Analyzing
	OBJ: Under	rstand what is mean	nt by symbolic violence and explain	its significance for the
	perpetuation	n of racial inequalit	ty.	
40.	The courts l	have played an imp	portant role in adjudicating racial cat	regorization processes.
	Understand	ling court decisions	around racial categorization proces	ses further underscores
	how race ar	nd ethnicity are	and	constructs.
	a. econom	ic; material		
	b. geograp	ohic; cultural		
	c. biologic	cal; genetic		
	d. social; l	nistorical		
	ANS: D	DIF: Moderate	REF: Ethnicity and Nationality	MSC: Analyzing
	OBJ: Distin	nguish between inst	itutional racism and interpersonal ra	ncism and understand how
	these types	of racism often into	erpenetrate and inform one another.	

41.	Which of the following best exemplifies the advice offered by the textbook authors on how		
	whites can contribute to fighting racial injustice?		
	a. Promote colorblindness by refusing to provide one's race on the census.		
	b. Accept guilt for the crimes committed by other whites.		
	c. Join an antiracist group on campus to suggest improvements that would make residential		
	life more inclusive.		
	d. Protest affirmative action in admissions.		
	ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: White Antiracists MSC: Applying		
	OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and		
	reproduces many privileges for white people.		
42.	While blacks were granted the right of citizenship in 1870 as part of the Reconstruction		
	Amendments after the Civil War, other nonwhites were denied citizenship until:		
	a. the 1890s		
	b. the 1920s		
	c. the 1940s		
	d. the 1960s		
	ANS: C DIF: Moderate REF: Ethnicity and Nationality MSC: Remembering		
	OBJ: Understand how racism intersects with other forms of social division—those based on		
	gender, class, sexuality, religion, nationhood, and ability.		
43.	The authors of the textbook invite you to understand race and ethnicity through a		
	sociological lens. C. Wright Mills coined the term "," which means		
	understanding and interpreting everyday life not only through one's own personal		
	experience but also through the exploration of that structure and direct		

our social world.

- a. sociological lens; cultural influences
- b. interpretative analysis; broader economic forces
- c. aggregated analysis; variables
- d. sociological imagination; broader historical forces
- ANS: D DIF: Moderate REF: Ethnicity and Nationality MSC: Remembering OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological foundation for race.
- 44. Consider the following scenario: School board members are debating a policy change that would increase the police presence at the local high school. What course of action might a sociologist recommend before making a decision?
 - a. assigning police to schools based on the per pupil percentage of disciplinary infractions
 - b. letting the principal decide based on what he thought worked at the high school he attended
 - c. analyzing the factors that are of concern, including social and historical patterns
 - d. letting the students vote
 - ANS: C DIF: Difficult REF: Ethnicity and Nationality MSC: Applying OBJ: Understand how racism intersects with other forms of social division—those based on gender, class, sexuality, religion, nationhood, and ability.
- 45. Two friends are arguing over the results of a recent NBA draft. Alex tells Jorge that his favorite team should have picked more black players because they naturally have more athletic skill and everyone knows "white men can't jump." Jorge calls Alex out for basing his argument on:

a. biological determinism

b. social constructivism

c. institutional racism

d. interpersonal racism

ANS: A DIF: Easy REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Applying

OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological foundation for race.

SHORT ANSWER

1. Beverly Tatum draws an analogy between racism and polluted air: "Always, day in and day out, we are breathing it in." Offer your own observation of an example of "day in and day out" racism.

ANS:

Answers may vary and should include examples of racism and identify whether these are institutional or interpersonal.

DIF: Moderate REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century MSC: Applying OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and reproduces many privileges for white people.

2. The textbook authors provide a historical case study to describe how the racial composition of sports team rosters is more a reflection of the decisions that young people make than of biological superiority. Explain the relationship between the transformation of inner cities and basketball participation.

ANS:

Answers may vary and should provide a summary of how basketball and inner-city

demographics coevolved.

DIF: Moderate REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Applying

OBJ: Learn why race is a symbolic category and understand why there is no biological foundation for race.

3. Consider the five fallacies about racism in the first section of Chapter 1. Select one of these that you think best helps us understand stereotypes and assumptions around race and athletic ability.

ANS:

Answers may vary and should describe key principles of selected fallacy.

DIF: Difficult REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Applying

OBJ: Explain why one should avoid the individualistic fallacy, the legalistic fallacy, the tokenistic fallacy, the ahistorical fallacy, and the fixed fallacy, when thinking about racism.

4. Describe an example of how whiteness is held up as the status quo.

ANS:

Answers may vary and should provide an example that demonstrates how whiteness is unspoken and unnamed.

DIF: Moderate REF: A Biological Reality? MSC: Applying

OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and reproduces many privileges for white people.

ESSAY

1. The authors of this textbook argue that "a better metaphor for intersecting modes of

oppression might not be criss- crossing roads, but a web of relations within which struggles over opportunities, power, and privileges take place." Explain both metaphors and analyze

why the authors prefer their metaphor to Crenshaw's.

ANS:

Answers will vary.

DIF: Difficult REF: American Racism in the Twenty-First Century MSC: Analyzing

OBJ: Understand how racism intersects with other forms of social division—those based on

gender, class, sexuality, religion, nationhood, and ability.

2. Based on what you have learned in Chapter 1, how can whites contribute to reducing racial

inequality? Use the concepts of white privilege and color-blindness in formulating your

essay.

ANS:

Answers will vary.

DIF: Difficult

REF: A Biological Reality?

MSC: Analyzing

OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and

reproduces many privileges for white people.

3. James Baldwin observed, "Color is not a human or personal reality; it is a political reality."

How can his definition help us analyze the importance of unpacking white privilege?

ANS:

Answers will vary.

DIF: Difficult

REF: A Biological Reality?

MSC: Applying

OBJ: Understand how whiteness is racial domination normalized, which produces and reproduces many privileges for white people.

4. Racial groups were created through centuries of oppression, colonialism, political discourse, and scientific manipulation. Some politicians—and even countries such as France—have argued against the use of racial categories on official data collection. For instance, some have argued for doing away with questions about race on the census or in collecting information on higher education enrollment. Why might this be a wrong-headed response?
ANS:

Answers will vary.

DIF: Moderate REF: Race is a Social Reality MSC: Applying

OBJ: Distinguish between institutional racism and interpersonal racism and understand how these types of racism often interpenetrate and inform one another.

5. W. E. B. Du Bois admonished us to not "make the all too common error of mistaking names for things." Discuss how labels, categories, and classifications have shaped race and ethnicity. Can race and ethnicity be collapsed into one category? Why or why not?
ANS:

Answers will vary.

DIF: Difficult REF: Ethnicity and Nationality MSC: Analyzing

OBJ: Recognize how race and ethnicity are overlapping symbolic categories and explain why they cannot be collapsed into one category.