

ABOUT THIS CURRICULUM

Confronting Bias, Working Toward Equity is divided into five instructional units; each unit includes lessons for grades 9–12. Educators may find it useful to use a specific lesson or lessons from a particular unit to support ongoing curricular content; however, we encourage you to teach the units sequentially. By progressing through the units in this manner, students build a strong foundation for analyzing and confronting bias.

The social and emotional development of students is a core part of their school experience. We suggest making *Confronting Bias, Working Toward Equity* a regular part of your weekly lesson plans. With 36 lessons in total, it is ideally designed to do one lesson per week. Each lesson has a core activity as well as extension ideas, and many include reading and writing activities that fit within the English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. The curriculum is also well-suited for Advisory, Social Studies, Health classes and other subject areas. Advisors for after-school diversity and affinity clubs can use the material to help students understand issues and build upon that knowledge to create change in their school and community. An integrated approach to anti-bias education is significantly more impactful than tying it to one subject area.

Overview of Units

Unit I: Building a Strong Foundation provides lessons for students to create classroom and school climates that are conducive to the honest, respectful exchange of ideas. Lessons build upon one another, allowing for a deeper understanding of the importance of listening to one another, understanding their own feelings and the feelings of others, sharing diverse perspectives, and learning strategies for civil discourse.

Unit II: Identity and Diversity provides lessons for students to research and share their cultural experiences and explore how they connect with their intersecting identities. These lessons provide students with opportunities to explore the complexities of United States culture and to examine both the benefits and challenges of a diverse nation.

Unit III: Analyzing Information provides lessons for students to enhance their critical thinking skills. The lessons provide opportunities for students to examine sources of information, evaluate data and investigate historical and current events from multiple perspectives. Students consider how inaccurate information and the omission of facts and diverse perspectives about any given historical or contemporary event can lead to bias.

Unit IV: Examining Bias and Discrimination provides lessons for students to recognize sources of bias and explore how bias manifests itself in U.S. society. Using both historical and contemporary examples, students analyze how stereotypes—such as those found in media, advertising and language—can lead to bias, scapegoating and exclusionary practices, including discrimination.

Unit V: Challenging Bias and Injustice provides lessons for students to share information about their own experiences with bias and to consider the effects of bias and discrimination on individuals, groups and society.