Anti-Bias Tools & Strategies

These additional resources provide a wide range of tips, tools, strategies and lessons for K-12 educators, administrators, students and family members to promote safe, respectful and inclusive learning environments.

The resources are grouped by the following categories:

- Classroom Tips and Strategies
- Definitions and Language
- Discussion and Activity Guides
- Film Discussion and Activity Guides
Classroom Tips and Strategies

10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism

Our country has a long history of youth-led movements that brought about significant social change. Young people have advocated for child labor laws, voting rights, civil rights,...

Carlos Amador / CC BY-NC 2.0

11 Ways Schools Can Help Students Feel Safe in Challenging Times (en Español)

In recent years, we have seen alarming images and biased language in schools and universities: name-calling, hate-filled taunts, vandalism, racial slurs...
How is social and emotional learning (SEL)--which is now an established and critical part of the school experience--connected with anti-bias education? If we want to help…

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Can We Talk? Tips for Respectful Conversations in Schools, Workplaces and Communities**

The ability to engage in respectful and civil conversations is the bedrock of any relationship—whether those connections take place at home, school, work or in communities.
Tips for the classroom educator to create an anti-bias learning environment.

**Creating an Anti-Bias Learning Environment**

Tips for the classroom educator to create an anti-bias learning environment.

**Establishing a Safe Learning Environment**

In many of ADL's lesson plans and activities, students are challenged to explore and articulate their personal feelings about sensitive topics including segregation...
Be aware of words, images and situations that suggest that all or most members of a group are the same. Stereotypes often lead to assumptions that are unsupportable and...

**Guidelines for Achieving Bias-Free Communication**

Be aware of words, images and situations that suggest that all or most members of a group are the same. Stereotypes often lead to assumptions that are unsupportable and...

**Helping Students Make Sense of News Stories about Bias and Injustice**

When there are national news stories that involve incidents of bias and injustice, young people want to be part of the conversation.
Strategies for discussing race and racism in classrooms of predominately white students.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

How Should I Talk about Race in My Mostly White Classroom?

Strategies for discussing race and racism in classrooms of predominately white students.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Let’s Get it Right: Using Correct Pronouns and Names

Educator resource about using accurate pronouns and names to convey understanding and respect for all people, especially for those who are transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary.
Classroom guidelines established around a framework of safety don’t always help those who feel marginalized brave enough to express strong feelings and ideas. Learn how to create brave spaces instead of just safe ones.

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Moving from Safe Classrooms to Brave Classrooms**

Classroom guidelines established around a framework of safety don’t always help those who feel marginalized brave enough to express strong feelings and ideas. Learn how to create brave spaces instead of just safe ones.
Myths and Facts About Immigrants and Immigration (En Español)

Nine common claims about immigrants, and the truth.

Myths and Facts about Muslim People and Islam

This resource dispels stereotypes and myths about Muslim people and Islam, suggest ways that educators can address these important topics in the classroom and provide relevant key words and definitions.
As a society, public conversations about race and racism have increased in volume and intensity. Here are some suggestions and strategies for having classroom conversations with young people about these issues.

**TOOLS AND STRATEGIES**

**Race Talk: Engaging Young People in Conversations about Race and Racism**

As a society, public conversations about race and racism have increased in volume and intensity. Here are some suggestions and strategies for having classroom conversations with young people about these issues.

**Safe and Inclusive Schools for All**

Tips to foster a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment.
Students and their families may need advice about how to approach their First Amendment rights, especially when their school tries to force students to participate or imposes consequences for not doing so. This blog provides information and advice for students and their families.

**Students’ Right to Protest the Pledge and National Anthem: Advice for Supporting Young People**

Students and their families may need advice about how to approach their First Amendment rights, especially when their school tries to force students to participate or imposes consequences for not doing so. This blog provides information and advice for students and their families.
Talking to Young Children about Bias and Prejudice

The process of countering negative attitudes with positives begins at an early age. Louise Derman-Sparks, an educator and specialist on child development, points to three major issues that are important to keep in mind when talking to children about prejudice and discrimination.

Claudia Rodriguez

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

What We're Reading this Week

ADL recommendations articles and blogs highlighting stories about anti-bias, social justice and general education ...
Tools and Strategies

Why Simulation Activities Should Not Be Used

Provides background about simulation and role play activities, why those activities should not be used in the classroom and what strategies can be used instead.

Definitions and Language

Challenging Biased Language
On a daily basis—in the lunchroom, at the grocery store, in school hallways and even at home—people hear and sometimes use words and phrases that demean or ridicule. Here are some strategies for responding.

GLOSSARY TERMS

Definitions Related to Bias, Injustice and Bullying
Definitions relating to bias, diversity, bullying and social justice concepts for educators, parents and family members of elementary age children.

Definitions Related to Name-Calling, Bullying and Bias
Definitions relating to bias and bullying associated with ADL’s educational anti-bias programs and resources for educators, parents and family members.

Definitions Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
Terms and definitions related to sexual orientation and gender identity associated with ADL’s educational anti-bias programs and resources for educators, parents and family members.
GLOSSARY TERMS

Disability Glossary
Disability related terms and definitions used in association with ADL's anti-bias programs and resources.

GLOSSARY TERMS

Education Glossary Terms
Terms and definitions associated with ADL’s educational anti-bias programs and resources for educators, parents and family members.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Guidelines for Achieving Bias-Free Communication
Be aware of words, images and situations that suggest that all or most members of a group are the same. Stereotypes often lead to assumptions that are unsupportable and...

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Toward Communication Free of Gender Bias
Since gendered and sexist language was first addressed by early feminists, growing attention has been paid in the media, in schools and academia and in theology...
Discussion and Activity Guides

TOOLs AND STRATEGIES

Beyond the Binary: Discussing Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Identity in K-12 Schools

In order to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students, it is important to discuss transgender and gender non-conforming identity and issues in schools. This guide provides suggestions and resources.

TOOLs AND STRATEGIES

Empowering Young People in the Aftermath of Hate (en Español)

Tools, tips and strategies for what educators and family members can do to help young people discuss and deal with the aftermath of hate-inspired events.
From Broken Glass Study Guide

High school teachers using Steve Ross’s *From Broken Glass* in the classroom, use this study guide to provide students context to achieve an understanding of the author’s experiences during the Holocaust while connecting what they are learning to their own lives.

Film Discussion and Activity Guides

Anti-Semitism and The Merchant of Venice

Introduction and Overview of the Guide ...

Love Has No Labels

The Ad Council’s Love Has No Labels is a public service advertising campaign that encourages people to examine and challenge their own implicit bias. View ADL’s discussion guides developed for two of the videos.
Historical Information

The People v. Leo Frank

The People v. Leo Frank, a 2009 film by Ben Loeterman Productions, vividly brings to life one of the most fascinating criminal cases in American history: the 1913 murder of a...

BACKGROUNDERS

Brown v. Board of Education

Sixty years after Brown v. Board of Education the promise of equal access to quality education remains unfulfilled. School expulsions and suspensions are among the best predictors...
The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's came about out of the need and desire for equality and freedom for African Americans and other people of color. Nearly one...

Rowland Scherman for USIA, Photographer. Courtesy of U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

From "Little Rock Nine" to Today
1957 in Little Rock, Arkansas, 9 African-American students faced a mob. Learn how the “Little Rock Nine” fought to gain access to equal education.

Holidays, Events and Special Months

LESSON PLAN

7 Ideas for Teaching Women’s History Month
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

7 Ideas for teaching Women’s History Month that broaden students thinking about the experience of women and gender in all of its complexity.

LESSON PLAN

8 Ideas for Teaching National Hispanic Heritage Month
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

Eight ideas for honoring National Hispanic Heritage Month in your classroom. This list of K-12 activities helps students understand the Latino experience in its complexity, incorporating literature, history, art, civil rights, film, music and more.
LESSON PLAN

10 Ideas for Teaching Black History Month

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

Ten ideas for teaching about Black History Month in K-12 classrooms.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Calendar of Observances

Bigstock

Library of Congress

Calendar of Observances

Use this calendar of observances to increase your awareness and sensitivity about religious holidays, observances and obligations as well as ethnic and cultural

festivities that may affect students, colleagues and neighbors in your community. Holiday celebrations are an excellent opportunity to provide a window into a culture or understand more about a group of people, as well as reinforce the diversity of all people...

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Considerations for Inclusive Holidays and Observances

Holiday celebrations are an excellent opportunity to provide a window into a culture or understand more about a group of people, as well as reinforce the diversity of all people...

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Dos and Don’ts with Special Diversity Events

“Dos and Don’ts” to help schools host special diversity events that are thoughtful and create environments that are inclusive and safe for all multicultural students.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Halloween: When the Goblins, Ghosts and Stereotypes Come Out

Help create a school community where Halloween can be creative, fun and respectful. Here are guidelines and tips for teachers to address potential issues such as stereotypes, cultural appropriation and gendered costumes.
Elections often bring about differences of opinion and strong feelings. Use this collection of resources in schools and at home to teach young people about civics, how government works, the electoral process and more.

**Teaching about Elections**

Elections often bring about differences of opinion and strong feelings. Use this collection of resources in schools and at home to teach young people about civics, how government works, the electoral process and more.

**Winter Holidays**

December can be a fun and festive time of year or it can make some students feel excluded and marginalized if not approached with respect and care.