

Camara Jones allegories: Discussion questions

HEALTH EQUITY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Rules for the road

- Be present: listen deeply, and accept one another's reality.
- Challenge yourself.
- Expect tension and discomfort—it's OK!
- Don't expect answers or resolution.
- Be OK with silence.
- "Don't yuck my yum," or, in other words: allow others to learn what you have already learned.
- Acknowledge that while race is a social construct (i.e., not biologically real), it still has real-world implications.
- Respect confidentiality: take the stories, leave the names.

The Gardener's Tale

Allegories on race and racism: **The gardener's tale**
(6:55 to 17:12), Camara Jones at TEDxEmory

Discussion questions

- What part of the story stands out for you? What do you remember?
- What did the story make you think about? What came to mind as you watched it?
- The Gardener's Tale focuses on race, but the allegory can be more broadly applied. If you think about the different "pots" as different populations in your community, who is thriving, and who is struggling? Why or why not?

The cliff analogy

Cliff analogy of health (14:55), Camara Jones at the University of Denver

Discussion questions

- What did you see? What are the different parts of the cliff? What was familiar to you, and what was a new idea for you?
- What connections do you see between the Gardener's Tale and the Cliff Analogy? What questions do they raise?
- In your view, where do we spend most of our time and energy in public health? What does the cliff analogy ask of us as public health professionals?

Minnesota Department of Health
Center for Public Health Practice
625 Robert Street N PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-3880 health.ophp@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us