

Implicit Bias

Video Title: Darion Reflection Sheet: Educator

Use this reflection page to explore the thoughts and ideas on racial bias as expressed in the video *Darion*.

- 1. Darion’s mom says, “I am very proud of the young man he is becoming and sometimes it throws me off a little bit because it’s just so far from what I expected.” What do you think she expected? Why? How does this statement reflect racial bias?

- 2. Darion’s mom talks about her history of committing crimes and being in and out of federal prison as well as his father’s incarceration. She believes that this is the time Darion said to himself, “If I want to make something of myself, I have to do it for myself. Because I see what happens when my mom does this and I see what happens when my dad is doing this.” Later she says, “It’s like he (Darion) was determined on his own. That he was going to be great.” How do you talk to your students about what inspires them to do well and make something of themselves?

- 3. His mom says she told Darion, “Based on your skin color, you just have to work hard. That’s just the way of the world.” What do those words mean to Darion, to his parents, and to you? How do you approach this topic with your students?

4. One powerful speech Darion makes about his mindset is, "I have control over what I do, what I know, where I go, who I associate myself with and you tell me that I am going to fail? What do you mean, you know? Who are you to say something like that to me?" Who is the "you" to whom Darion speaks? Why does this "you" think he will fail? How do you help your students develop this kind of motivated mindset even in the face of racial bias?

5. Darion's mom says that the "narrative (of young men of color) needs to change only because it is so incorrect because there are so many kids who are doing great things...and nobody sees it because of the community they are in or because of the school they are going to, you know it's not like anyone's getting the full story that's the right story." Comment on how the world might better see the right "story" or hear the right "narrative" about young men like Darion. What needs to happen? How can we make that happen? How can learning these stories break the cycle of racial bias?

6. We learn that the police officer never thought he'd be a police officer, but that as he grew up, he knew it was meant to be. What do we learn about his reasons? What do you think the police officer learns about Darion? How will this help relations in the future? How is this a step towards tearing down the walls of racial bias?
