

Implicit Bias

Video Title: Darion

Reflection Sheet: High School Students

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

1. At the beginning of the film, Darion says, “(In a community like this) you don’t have security, safety granted to you at all times. You know if you are walking down the street and a police officer sees you, then he is going to keep his eye on you. The people that are stopped, they are going to be African-American. They are going to be Hispanic. They are going to be Latino. Now you have your eye on me because I don’t look like you. If I were another race, that might not happen to me.”

Write a response about how his words illustrate the ways Darion lives with racial bias every day, and then write about how this connects to your own life experiences.

2. 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?

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?

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? Explain your answer. How could a self-talk like this help you in your life?

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. When Darion is heading into the police station to go on a ride-along with an officer, he says, "The relationship between law enforcement and people of color needs to be changed." Explain what you think he means regarding racial bias. How do actions like going on a ride-along with a police officer help that change happen? What other actions would you suggest that might foster change in relationships with law enforcement?

7. 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 community relations in the future? How is this a step toward tearing down the walls of racial bias?
