

Overview:

Counter-storytelling, a method often used in critical race theory, highlights the stories of individuals who are marginalized within society. It aims to push back against dominant narratives that often privilege certain voices over others.

This activity introduces the concept of counter-storytelling through the points of view of Asian/Asian American individuals who have experienced racialized microaggressions. Participants will first read excerpts from Yeo et al. (2019) and watch three videos that depict Asian/Asian American perspectives on the microaggressions they endure because of their race. Then, they will discuss these videos as examples of counter-stories and identify what they can learn from these perspectives.

Background:

This activity was created by Dr. Kris Acheson-Clair, Director of CILMAR, and Dr. Pamela K. Sari, Director of the Purdue Asian American Asian Resource Cultural Center (AAARC) based on Yeo et al. (2019) (see citation below for more information).

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Identify and analyze examples of counter-storytelling.
2. Articulate how counter-storytelling can be used to challenge racialized experiences such as microaggressions.

Time:

45 minutes

Group Size:

Small group

Materials:

Microaggressions and Counter-Storytelling Handout (in [Downloads](#)), computer/tablet and projector/speakers to show videos, and the following videos:

- ["What Kind of Asian Are You?"](#)
- ["Say My Name"](#)
- ["The Chinese students fighting racism - BBC News"](#)

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Empathy

- To interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of own and more than one worldview.
- To demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.

Other Skills:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Activity Instructions:

1. Assign the Microaggressions and Counter-Storytelling Handout as pre-reading for this activity.
2. Play the three videos linked in the Materials section above.

Note: If facilitating this activity online, ask participants to type 1-2 words in the chat every time they have an emotional reaction as you are playing the videos.

3. Divide participants into small groups. In their groups, they will connect the videos to the pre-reading. They should use the following prompts:
 - What do you see exemplified in the videos from the table of themes in the Microaggressions and Counter-Storytelling Handout?
 - How do these videos illustrate counter-stories?
 - Why does context matter in how (or whether) people respond to microaggressions and stereotyping against them?
4. Ask each group to share what they discussed with the entire class and then conclude the activity by debriefing with the the following:
 - What might counter-storytelling look like for other stigmatized groups who experience microaggressions (beyond Asians/Asian-Americans)?
 - How might these strategies be used effectively by “witnesses” to microaggressions and not just targets?

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Addressing Microaggressions](#)
- [Say My Name](#)