Use this selection of recommended resources to stay current on anti-bias, antiracist (ABAR) strategies as well as issues related to race and racism. From books to podcasts (and even TikToks!), you’ll find best-in-class content to increase your knowledge and awareness and inform your teaching.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed by the experts and influencers listed below are those of the individual. First Book does not have control over and does not assume responsibility for authors, contributors, or third-party websites and their content.

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DIVERSIFY YOUR BOOKSHELF

These books are recommended to support educators along their personal ABAR journeys, though some texts are appropriate for older students as well. When you shop on our affiliate page on Bookshop.org, First Book will receive 10% of your entire purchase (before shipping).

**An African American and Latinx History of the United States**
by Paul Ortiz
Ortiz’s revolutionary narrative spans more than two hundred years and shows how placing African American, Latinx, and Indigenous voices unapologetically front and center transforms U.S. history into one of the working class organizing against imperialism.

**A Black Women’s History of the United States**
by Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross
The authors center and celebrate Black womanhood, showcasing Black women’s lives in all their successes, struggles, and complexities. Berry and Gross share the voices of enslaved women, freedwomen, religious leaders, artists, queer women, activists, and women who lived outside the law.

**A Disability History of the United States**
by Kim E. Nielsen
Nielsen positions the experiences of disabled people at the center of the American narrative and shows how concepts of disability have shaped the American experience—from deciding who was allowed to immigrate to justifying slavery and gender discrimination.

**An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States**
by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
Spanning more than four hundred years, this peoples’ history radically reframes U.S. history, examining the silences that have haunted our national narrative and revealing how Native Americans actively resisted expansion of the U.S. empire for centuries.

**An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People**
by Debbie Reese and Jean Mendoza
Curriculum experts Reese and Mendoza adapted the original title (described above) for middle-grade and young adult readers so they too can learn about the roles that colonialism and genocide played in forming our national identity. Use the discussion topics, archival images, original maps, recommendations for further reading, and other materials to encourage students to think critically about their own place in history.

**An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States for Young People**
by Richie Chevat
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth deserve to know their history, but it is rarely taught in schools. With over 60 illustrations and photos, a glossary, and a corresponding curriculum, A Queer History of the United States for Young People is a key resource for teachers who want to introduce a new perspective to America’s story. Be Antiracist: A Journal for Awareness, Reflection and Action by Ibram X. Kendi Use this guided journal to reflect on your understanding of race and find ways to work toward an antiracist future.

**A Queer History of the United States**
by Michael Bronski
Bronski challenges how we understand American history and charts the breadth of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history in the U.S. from 1492 to the 1990s.

**Be Antiracist: A Journal for Awareness, Reflection and Action**
by Ibram X. Kendi
Use this guided journal to reflect on your understanding of race and find ways to work toward an antiracist future.

**Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America**
edited by Ibi Zoboi
Edited by National Book Award finalist Ibi Zoboi, Black Enough is an essential collection of captivating stories about what it’s like to be young and Black in America and features some of the most acclaimed bestselling Black authors writing for young adults today.
Critical Race Theory: An Introduction by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic

This classic by Delgado and Stefancic remains an essential primer for understanding critical race theory. First published in 2001 and updated to include the Black Lives Matter movement, the presidency of Barack Obama, the rise of hate speech, and other recent events, this third edition of Critical Race Theory addresses the rise of criticism against the theory itself and the claim that America, now colorblind, has little use for racial analysis or study.

Why Is Everyone Talking About Critical Race Theory?

Although critical race theory has been around for decades and is mostly taught in law schools, it has recently received broader attention in the media. In 2021, numerous states have either introduced legislation to ban critical race theory or banned it altogether, efforts that have serious implications for educators who believe in anti-bias, antiracist teaching and want to discuss systemic racism with their students.

WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

Critical race theory is a discipline developed by legal scholars over forty years ago. It was created in response to the assertion that the law plays no part in sustaining racial hierarchies and racial inequality.

• It teaches that race is a social construct.
• It investigates how the social construct of race and institutionalized racism perpetuate a caste system, which in the case of the U.S. is a 400-year-old social order of racial hierarchy.
• It shows how the caste system relegates people of color to the lower tiers of society.
• It explains how different systems interact, such as how racism and classism are embedded in the health care, legal, and educational systems.

MYTHS ABOUT CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Critical Race Theory does not teach that...

• People are inherently racist or unworthy because of the color of their skin.
• People should feel guilty about or responsible for past injustices or instances of racism.
• People should be ashamed of themselves, their culture, and/or their country.

“‘This is not about a particular theory. This is about whether we will continue to talk about racism in our schools [or whether we will have] the censoring of racial discourse for generations to come.”

Kimberlé Crenshaw, Race Theorist and Law Professor at UCLA and Columbia University

LEARN MORE ABOUT CRITICAL RACE THEORY...

Why Everyone’s Talking About Critical Race Theory | Axios

Understanding the Pushback Against Critical Race Theory in Schools | NPR

A Lesson on Critical Race Theory | American Bar Association

What critical race theory is — and isn’t | CNN

What Is Critical Race Theory and Why Are Some People So Mad at It? | Snopes.com
Diversify Your Bookshelf, Continued

Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students
by Zaretta Hammond
Hammond draws on cutting edge neuroscience research to offer an innovative approach for designing and implementing brain compatible culturally responsive instruction. Readers will find Information on how one’s culture programs the brain to process data and affects learning relationships; ten “key moves” to build students’ learner operating systems and prepare them to become independent learners; and prompts for action and valuable self-reflection.

Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America 1619-2019
edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain
Editors Kendi and Blain have compiled the essays and stories of ninety brilliant writers into a one-volume “community” history of African Americans. Each writer takes on a five-year period of the four-hundred-year span from 1619—when the first enslaved Africans arrived in English North America—to the present day.

How to Be an Antiracist
by Ibram X. Kendi
Kendi combines ethics, history, law, and science with his own awakening to antiracism in this essential read for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism and develop the antiracist mindset and behaviors required to create an equitable and just society.

Just Mercy
by Bryan Stevenson
An unforgettable account of Stevenson’s incredible legacy as the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children mistreated by the criminal justice system.

Not Light, But Fire
by Matthew R. Kay
Inspired by Frederick Douglass’s abolitionist call to action—“it is not light that is needed, but fire”—Matthew Kay has spent his career learning how to lead students through the most difficult race conversations. He shares his method for getting them right and provides guidance on:

• How to recognize the difference between meaningful and inconsequential race conversations.
• How to build conversational “safe spaces,” not merely declare them.
• How to infuse race conversations with urgency and purpose.
• How to thrive in the face of unexpected challenges.
• How administrators might equip teachers to thoughtfully engage in these conversations.

So You Want to Talk about Race?
by Ijeoma Oluo
Ijeoma Oluo guides readers through subjects such as intersectionality and affirmative action in order to convey how race and racism affect almost every aspect of American life and with the goal of making honest conversations about race less daunting.
DIVERSIFY YOUR BOOKSHELF, CONTINUED

Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You
adaptation by Sonja Cherry-Paul
of text by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi,
Illustrated by Rachelle Baker
Adapted from the groundbreaking bestseller and enhanced with a glossary, timeline, and more, this book takes young readers on a journey of discovery about where racist ideas came from and how they impact America today. Readers will also learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives.

The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom
by Felicia Rose Chavez
A masterclass in how to be a culturally attuned, twenty-first century educator. Chavez explains how politics, power, and privilege have conspired to silence writers of color and describes the actions we can take to achieve authentically inclusive communities.

When They Call You a Terrorist
by Patrisse Khan-Cullors & asha bandele
Khan-Cullors, one of the founders of the Black Lives Matter movement, and bandele, an award-winning author and journalist, share their stories of survival, strength, and resilience and a call to action to change the culture that declares innocent Black life expendable.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race
by Beverly Daniel Tatum
Is self-segregation a problem or a coping strategy? Beverly Daniel Tatum, an authority on the psychology of racism, delves into this question and other issues related to racial identity and education equity.

You Are Your Own Best Thing
by Taran Burke and Brené Brown
Burke and Brown collaborated on this poignant book about the Black experience with vulnerability and shame. Along with the anthology contributors, the co-editors create a space to recognize and process the trauma of white supremacy, be vulnerable, and affirm the fullness of Black love and Black life.

This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work
by Tiffany Jewell
A book for everyone who lives in this racialized society, including young adults who don’t know how to speak up to the racist adults in their life, kids who are trying to fit into the dominant culture, and kids who have been harmed by racism as well as their families, teachers, and administrators.

We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom
by Bettina L. Love
A researcher and educator, Love argues that students need to learn about racial violence, oppression, and how to make sustainable change in their communities. She argues that the U.S. educational system is maintained by and profits from the suffering of children of color and that teachers, parents, and community leaders must approach education with the imagination, determination, boldness, and urgency of an abolitionist.

See the First Book Marketplace for books about social & emotional learning and diversity & inclusion. >
DIVERSIFY YOUR ONLINE RESOURCES

Abolitionist Teaching Network >
Abolitionist Teaching Network’s mission is to develop and support those in the struggle for educational freedom by utilizing the intellectual work and direct action of Abolitionists in many forms.

American Library Association’s Banned and Challenged Books >
Books featuring diversity are often targets of censorship. Learn about the most frequently challenged books, Banned Books Week, how to report censorship, and more.

American Indians in Children’s Literature >
Established in 2006 by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo, American Indians in Children’s Literature (AIChL) provides critical analysis of Indigenous peoples in children’s and young adult books and is a valuable resource for Native and non-Native parents, librarians, teachers, editors, professors, and students.

American Library Association’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resource Page >
Equity, diversity, and inclusion are fundamental values of the American Library Association, which aims to position itself as a trusted, leading advocate for equitable access to library services for all. ALA’s thorough DEI hub has resources, standards and competencies, guidelines, histories, opportunities, and more.

An Atlantic Reader: Race and Policing in America >
A compilation of essays and articles about race and racism in the U.S. from The Atlantic magazine. Articles are organized by time period and topic: call for abolition, the Civil War, and emancipation; reconstruction, Jim Crow, and segregation; civil rights; policing, incarceration, and disinvestment; and economic inequality, police violence, and COVID-19.

Black History Continued >
A New York Times resource that explores pivotal moments and transformative figures in Black culture. Visit the site to read about the Tulsa Race Massacre, the joy of Black hair, Black superheroes, and more.

Color of Change >
Color of Change is the nation’s largest online racial justice organization. Their goal is to design strategies to fight racism and injustice—in politics and culture, in the workplace and the economy, in criminal justice and community life, and wherever they exist—that ultimately change the written and unwritten rules of society.

Colorlines >
Colorlines is a daily news site where race matters, featuring award-winning, in-depth reporting, news analysis, opinion and curation. COLORLINES is published by Race Forward, a national organization that advances racial justice through research, media, and practice.
EduColor
EduColor mobilizes advocates nationwide around issues of educational equity, agency, and justice. The organization amplifies the works and ideas of students, educators, and communities of color through supportive networks and professional development.

Equal Justice Initiative
Founded in 1989 by Bryan Stevenson—an acclaimed public interest lawyer and best-selling author of Just Mercy—EJI is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the U.S., challenging racial and economic injustice, and protecting the human rights of our most vulnerable populations.

GLSEN
GLSEN offers a range of resources for both student-led and educator-driven programs that seek to improve LGBTQ inclusivity in schools. Whether it’s taking a training, getting help starting a GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), or using an LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum resources year-round, GLSEN can support you in supporting LGBTQ students.

HRE Educational Foundation
The Harem Revels East Educational Foundation, named in honor of one of the first African Americans elected to the House of Representatives, provides services that promote education and increase awareness of social injustices.

National Council of Teachers of English: There Is No Apolitical Classroom: Resources for Teaching in These Times
Created by members of NCTE’s Standing Committee Against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English, this resource contains information about White supremacy and bias as well as books for teachers and students.

NEA EdJustice
NEA EdJustice engages and mobilizes activists in the fight for racial, social, and economic justice in public education. Their website offers coverage of social justice issues in education as well as ways educators can advocate for their students, schools, and communities.

Do Charges in Breonna Taylor Case Show Officers Are ‘above the Law’? | PBS NewsHour
The killing of Breonna Taylor at the hands of Louisville police...
PBS NewsHour
Grades 6-8, 9-12

Facing History and Ourselves
Facing History’s resources address racism, antisemitism, and prejudice at pivotal moments in history. Their mission is to help students connect choices made in the past to those they will confront in their own lives.

Learning for Justice
Founded by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Learning for Justice works in partnership with communities to dismantle White supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people by providing free resources to educators who work with children from kindergarten through high school.

PBS LearningMedia: Confronting Anti-Black Racism
Designed for middle and high school students, this site includes news coverage of recent protests, videos about the Black Lives Matter movement, documentaries about race and racism, and activities designed to encourage civic engagement and elevate students’ voices.

HRE Educational Foundation
The Harem Revels East Educational Foundation, named in honor of one of the first African Americans elected to the House of Representatives, provides services that promote education and increase awareness of social injustices.
The U.S. Census Bureau projects that in 2043, People of Color will become the majority of the U.S. population. What does this historic demographic shift mean for the United States? And, what steps can we take to create an inclusive, equitable, and healthy multi-racial democracy?

Founded by Julye M. Williams, an educator and former school leader, Project 2043 provides creative educational resources, trainings, and support to educators and organizations whose goal is to take action and ensure our society works for all. Learn more at project2043.com and follow Julye on Instagram and LinkedIn.

Resources for Teaching About Race and Racism with The New York Times
A curated collection of over 75 lesson plans, writing prompts, short films, and graphs relating to racism and racial justice.

Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture
The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. The museum website offers resources for educators, students, and families that encourage lifelong learning and support the museum’s mission to inspire a more tolerant and inclusive society.

Smithsonian Asian American Center: Learning Together
This page offers K12 educational content featuring interviews with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members, links to community-created educational resources, book recommendations, discussion ideas, and more, including:
- Addressing anti-Asian racism and xenophobia
- Activities and videos for students, families, and lifelong learners
- Content complementing Social Studies units
- Resources about Asian American and Pacific Islander voices in literature

Talking About Race | National Museum of African American History and Culture
An online portal designed to help educators and families talk about race and racial identity and their effects on individuals and society.

Teaching for Change
By drawing direct connections to real world issues, Teaching for Change encourages teachers and students to question and re-think the world inside and outside their classrooms; build a more equitable, multicultural society; and become active global citizens.

The 1619 Project Curriculum
The 1619 Project challenges us to reframe U.S. history by marking the year when the first enslaved Africans arrived on Virginia soil as our nation’s foundational date. The website offers reading guides, activities, and other resources to bring The 1619 Project into your classroom.

Woke Kindergarten
Woke Kindergarten is a global, abolitionist early learning community, creative expanse and consultancy supporting children, families, educators, and organizations in their commitment to abolitionist early education and pro-Black liberation.
DIVERSIFY YOUR LISTENING & LEARNING

PODCASTS

1619
An audio series on how slavery transformed America, connecting past and present through the oldest form of storytelling.

Be Antiracist
"Be Antiracist" imagines what an antiracist society might look like and how we all can play an active role in building one. Dr. Kendi guides listeners in how they can identify and reject the racist systems hiding behind racial inequity and injustice. Alongside notable guests, Dr. Kendi continues his journey towards building a just and equitable world and proposes how we can all help create it with him.

Code Switch | NPR
Hosted by journalists of color, Code Switch tackles the subject of race head-on and explores how it impacts every part of society—from politics and pop culture to history, sports and everything in between.

Learning for Justice
Deepen your knowledge and improve your practice with Learning for Justice podcasts. Each episode explores an aspect of a Learning for Justice topic or framework and is produced with educators in mind.

Nice White Parents
From the makers of Serial and The New York Times, “Nice White Parents” looks at the 60-year relationship between white parents and the public school down the block.

Seeing White
Where did the notion of "Whiteness" come from? What does it mean? What is Whiteness for? This series takes a deep dive into these questions with the input of an array of leading scholars and regular guest Dr. Chenjerai Kumanyika.

Teaching to Thrive
From the Abolitionist Teaching Network, this podcast shares ideas that strengthen the everyday lives of Black and Brown students within our schools and communities. Each episode is aimed at empowering our knowledge for collective liberation.

Photo by Freepik.com
DIVERSIFY YOUR LISTENING & LEARNING, CONTINUED

VIDEOS

The Antiracism Academy ➤
The Antiracism Academy’s mission is to dismantle racism and promote social justice through educational videos on historical and current issues of race and racism. Their vision is to raise the next generation of antiracist leaders and dismantle racism, one lesson at a time.

First Book’s Digital Series on Race & Racism ➤
In this two-part video series, experts and educators offer advice and encouragement for having effective conversations about race with students. They model how to incorporate anti-bias, antiracist (ABAR) teaching into all aspects of your teaching and provide recommendations for age-appropriate conversations.

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man ➤
Hosted by Emmanuel Acho, Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man is a safe place to have the uncomfortable conversations about race that many people have never been able to have.

TIKTOKS

TikTok is one of the most popular apps with tweens and teens, and many teachers are using this short-form video capability as a fun teaching and learning format to allow students to creatively demonstrate knowledge and engage in peer-to-peer teaching. Below are race-related TikToks that can be incorporated into discussions and lessons or used as inspiration for assignments and assessments.

The Four Dimensions of Racism ➤

Reverse Racism ➤

#StopAsianHate ➤

Equity in Education ➤

Racial Bias in Photography ➤

Racial Bias in Medicine ➤

Unconscious Bias ➤

WATCH PART 1 ➤

WATCH PART 2 ➤
DIVERSIFY YOUR LISTENING & LEARNING, CONTINUED

WEBINARS & ONLINE COURSES

Talking About Race and Racism in the Classroom Using The New York Times
In this webinar, Learning Network editors and educators share resources and strategies for engaging in these critical discussions.

Learning for Justice Webinars
Learning for Justice webinars offer helpful guidance and great ideas from experienced teaching and learning specialists and from innovative educators in the Learning for Justice community.

Introduction to Anti-Bias Education | Humble Teacher
The Antiracism Academy’s mission is to dismantle racism and promote social justice through educational videos on historical and current issues of race and racism. Their vision is to raise the next generation of antiracist leaders and dismantle racism, one lesson at a time.

Unconscious Bias: An Educator’s Self-Assessment
This is an important resource, intended specifically for educators, that explains why we all have bias and what to do about it.

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE WEBINARS FROM LEARNING FOR JUSTICE:

Indigenous Peoples’ History
Cohosted by experts from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, this webinar delves into the ways American history instruction often fails to acknowledge—and contributes to—the erasure of Indigenous stories and perspectives.

Teaching Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage
Cohosted by experts from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, this webinar delves into the ways American history instruction often fails to acknowledge—and contributes to—the erasure of Indigenous stories and perspectives.

Teaching Hard History in Grades K-5
Participants will learn how our elementary framework centers the stories of enslaved people to teach the history of American slavery in a way that is both age-appropriate and accessible. You will also gain strategies for teaching about topics like freedom, race, enslavement, and resistance while avoiding common pitfalls.

The Color of Law
Inspired by and including excerpts from Richard Rothstein’s New York Times best-selling book The Color of Law, this webinar will delve into deliberate governmental practices that created opportunities for White Americans and excluded others.