

POV from PIB

Points of View from Panthers in Black

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TOPICS BEING DISCUSSED

Origins of
Black History
Month

Race

The N-Word

Stop the
Jokes

Unnecessary
Comments/Hurtful
Words

Hair and Head
Coverings





The Importance of Black History Month

- Recognizes and promotes the appreciation of African-American achievement, culture and heritage
- Reflects struggles, sacrifices, and accomplishments of Black African Americans
- Includes events in the past as well current times
- Educates people about the Black community
- Not created to bash everything in the past, but to raise awareness about the good and the bad

Race

- There are different races in the African American culture (African Americans, Biracial etc.)
- Very commonly asked questions:
 - “What are you?”
 - “If you’re Biracial, are you considered African American?”
 - Yes, yes you are.
- In general, there’s no reason to ask. Race shouldn’t be a reason to treat anyone differently.



Race

“Are you White or Black?”

- Being biracial starts with the parents—one is black while the other is a different race
- It is also NOT OKAY to refer to African American people based on their skin tone:
 - “Light Skinned”, “Brown Skinned” or “Darker Skinned”
- We prefer just saying African Americans or Black



Origin of the N-Word

- Was used during the times of slavery and segregation as a very offensive term
- There are different endings such as “-er” and “-a” which have two different meanings
- It continues to be used in present time as a racial slur against African Americans

Use of the N-Word Ending in “-ER”

Reasons Why Black People Get So Offended over the Word:

- Black people are reminded by the horrible history associated with the word
- It is disrespectful toward African American people
- Despite the fact that you may listen to music or read books that have those two endings of the n-word, it is NOT OKAY to say if you are not African American.
- African Americans DO NOT use the n-word with the ending of “-er”

At the end of the day, if you are not African American, DO NOT SAY IT.

Use of the N-Word Ending in “-A”

- When it is used between African Americans, the definition of the word changes and is commonly used as a term of endearment such as “friend” or “buddy”
- **ONLY** African Americans can use it in this context, not other races
- There is no such thing as an “n-word pass” so **DON’T ASK** for it or **TAKE IT** even if it was given to you by someone a part of the African American community

Reactions to the N-Word

Here are some of the comments we've heard from our peers regarding the n-word:

- "It's fine; you can say it."
- "It was in the book."
- "It's just a word."

This is how we felt hearing these comments regarding the n-word:

- Disrespected
- Confused
- Shocked
- Scared
- Harassed



Stop the Jokes

- Just like there is no n-word “pass,” “joking around” about race is not a joke and it’s not okay.
- Past event jokes
 - Slavery, etc.
- Comparing skin tones
- Reenacting more current or old events such as George Floyd (I can’t breathe), slavery, etc.
- Posting hurtful things about African Americans in (vids/pics) on your social media (i.e., Snap, Insta, TikTok, YouTube, etc.)



Stop the Jokes

Jokes about Black Lives Matter and Black History Month

- These jokes are very rude, immature and unintelligent
- Disrespectful towards African Americans
- **JUST DON'T DO IT! PERIOD!**

The “Negative Compliments/ Comments”

- Things heard and said by peers:
 - “You’re really pretty for a black girl!”
 - “You’re really cute for a black guy!”
 - “Do you live in an apartment?”
 - “Oh, you live in a really nice house!”
- These types of comments make your Black peers feel uncomfortable knowing there are already standards/stereotypes out there towards Black people.
- In general, these are backhanded compliments.

More Acceptable Compliments and questions

- “Oh, you’re so pretty”
- “You’re cute”
- “I like your hair”
- “I love your house”
- “I love your style”
- “Where do you live?”

HAIR

Comments/questions/actions done by peers:

- “Why don’t all black boys have waves?”
- “Is that your real hair?”
- “Can I touch your hair?”
- These and more make us uncomfortable



HAIR

- There are different hair textures.
- You can crochet, install weave, have locs, braids, natural, curly, waves, straight hair, etc.
- Hair is a big part of the African American Culture
- It is one of the ways to express ourselves!



Head Coverings



Comments and questions asked by peers:

- “Why are you wearing a dress when it is summer? Aren’t you hot in that?” These questions are offensive!
- Wearing a Hijab is a part of someone’s religion/culture
- Asking someone to remove their Hijab would be disrespectful
- Males and Females can wear head coverings
- There is no reason to comment on someone’s head covering!

Join Panthers in Black

The background of the slide features a dark grey silhouette of several raised fists, symbolizing solidarity and protest. The fists are arranged in a row, with some overlapping, and are set against a black background.

If there are any African American students who would like to join Panthers In Black (PIB), please contact your school counselor. PIB works towards raising awareness about Black history, culture, and racial injustice.

We are also here to provide a safe space for African American students to discuss and express themselves, and our experiences at Edison.

For any students who are not African American and would like to engage in conversations and help with the work of PIB please reach out to your counselor!



THANK YOU

**We appreciate you for
listening to our
presentation!**