

Role-play Workshop: How to Address Anti-black Narratives 如何应对歧视黑人的种族主义言论

Below is an excerpt from the statement written by Vietlead after an attack by Black youths on Asian youths on SEPTA trains in 2021 in Philadelphia.

Let's read it together. On the next page, you can find some strategies and rhetorical devices in this statement that we find useful for our own conversations with other people.

Add Your Name: Joint Statement in Response to Recent Anti-Asian Violence

The historical invisibilization and misunderstanding of our community's pain had led some to urgently call for "swift justice." But we are concerned that urgency has meant calling for punishment and increased policing, which puts more people of color, especially Black communities, in harm's way. We are concerned that overt media hype and reactionary rhetoric and mobilization leave little room to actually center our young people and ask: What does justice look like for them?

While much attention has been put on the interpersonal nature of this latest incident, it's important to shine a light on the systemic roots of this harm. **This is the direct result of decades of divestment from our city's public schools, leading to conditions where our youths are pitted against one another and school administrations are unequipped to support them. This leads to the normalization of violence between students of color and the failure of our city's institutions to center transformative justice and healing the aftermath, perpetuating the cycle of violence.** Our SEPTA drivers are frontline workers transporting us during the continuing pandemic and also must not be targeted for these broader systemic failures.

After the collective decades of work in our communities, we continue to ask: What does repair look like in this instance of harm that doesn't create further violence? What does healing look like for the victims? What should accountability look like for the youths who caused the harm? What are the larger systems and leaders who are failing our communities who must also be held accountable? If systemic failures have led to this incident, what does collective responsibility for collective transformation look like? How do we simultaneously break this cycle of violence, heal harm, and address the structural issues that lead to anti-Asian hate? Today, we together declare that first, we listen to our young people.

Strategies Used In This Statement:

- 1) Acknowledge the incident: what happened
- 2) Introduce ourselves: especially how our background and where we came from informed our interest in this topic
- 3) Acknowledge that we knew, heard and spent effort to understand what others thought could be the solution (ie.police)
- 4) How that solution doesn't work out, shown from data, our experience, and facts
- 5) Ask open questions to invite collective reflection upon the previous solution
- 6) Propose another possible way to collectively re-imagine, re-figure, rebuild the narrative
- 7) Please feel free to write and add the strategies that you noticed below:

Now, let's translate these strategies into conversational responses and practice talking to someone in your community.

*We will **provide four common anti-black narratives** (attached below on page 8) in our community. Please read the one your group is assigned and discuss with your group. You can also refer to the guidelines on pages below.*

Here are guidelines that facilitators wrote. You can use them to flow the conversation from a confrontation\defense into a deep, reflective, transformational place.

In place of the [...] please fill in your own words. Note that you don't have to agree with or use all of these sentences, which are written by facilitators in their own responses to anti-blackness. If there is anything you have questions about, feel free to ask each other or ask facilitators.

Role play guidelines

1. Acknowledge the feelings of the other side -
make sure that they feel they are heard and it's a conversation.

“我知道你可能现在很 [生气/难过/...]”

“你的感受是真实的”

“我听你讲完，感受到你的 [生气/愤怒/委屈/不舒服/难过/...] 的感受。我这样的感受正确吗？”

“谢谢你跟我分享你的观点，刚才你说 [paraphrase/引用Ta使用的话语] 是这样吗？”

2. What are your experiences that lead to your thinking?

“我很好奇你为什么这么想，之前发生过什么事情吗？”

“谢谢你分享，我想知道你是从哪里听说的？”

3. Who am I? (Who are we?)

“我是[...], 我在[...]长大，所以经历可能和你挺像的/不太像。我觉得...”
“我们是[...]，我们不相信[...]，我们相信[...]”

4. Where am I coming from - what shapes my political views?

“作为 [中国留学生/华裔/...] 我也经历过 [...] 的事情，你刚才说的很让我感同身受，你说的一些 [...] 的情绪也很让我有感触。不过我的这个经历让我体会到 [...]”

“不知道你以前有没有和黑人同学打交道的经历呢？以前我也觉得 [...], 后来接触到了一些黑人同学，我们成为了很好的朋友，发现 [...]”

“谢谢你分享给我你的这些 [concern/观察/体会/感受/...]，我们都是 [中国出身/...] 其实我小时候家里面也会有类似的 [种族主义言论/...] 直到我来到这边 [上了xx这节课/认识了xx这个同学/看了xx这本书/...]”

5. What are the structural causes for conflicts between our communities?

“你说的这些，我都很理解。但我会想，会不会像我们的社群一样，他们的社群长期以来也受到很多压迫和创伤，然后他们也在不断地试错，寻找自己的道路呢？”

“你觉得在日常生活中的黑人接触多吗？有没有过对话呀？我认识的黑人朋友都觉得和中国学生接触不多。其实我们之间还是缺乏很多沟通和交流，而这也是因为在白人至上的社会里，我们被鼓励朝白人看齐，互相歧视，于是被割裂 [...]”

6. What are the structural causes for anti-blackness in our community?

“你小时候看到警察是什么反应？”
“你小时候看到黑人是什么反应？”

“我现在想想，小的时候我们在电视上电影里看到的黑人形象和现在在B站上的叙事真的非常不一样。比如我第一次看见黑人是在成龙的电影里那种非常有幽默感很正直拼搏的形象，但是现在很多在B站看弹幕都是很多侮辱性的比如黑人都是单亲家庭、懒散等等。你有这样的感觉么？”

“你小时候唱过🎵我在马路边捡到一分钱🎵吗？我感觉从小就被教育说警察是好人，这种故事挺根深蒂固的，但我们最近也能看到越来越多国内便衣警察打人的事件被报道出来。同样的，对于很多黑人来说.....”

7. Why are the current responses (i.e. calls for more police, incarceration, “interpersonal hate crimes”) not enough?

“其实很多黑人受到的压迫和我们华人有很多相似的地方。比如警察暴力同样伤害了很多无辜的华人/移民社区。而且警察不会阻止正在发生的暴力，只会事后到达抓捕。即使有更多警察，你关心的[...]问题也不能得到解决....”

“你觉得所谓的‘坏人’被关起来之后，服刑出来会变好吗？”

“监狱在你的印象里是什么样的地方？如果是你的家人朋友做了错事，你是否希望ta有机会认识自己的错误，改变自己，还是在监狱里每天被囚禁管制，压迫责罚？”

“大部分‘犯罪’是迫于贫穷生计问题产生的，你觉得把这些人抓起来，可以解决问题吗？”

“你觉得现在我们作为亚裔/中国人受到的暴力，能用hate crime 一个词概括吗？会不会这个词是权力机关用来掩盖深层次社会问题的话术？”

“你觉得我们社群里对于种族主义歧视/暴力的受害者的支持工作做得够吗？现在有哪些，还有哪些可以做的？”

8. Ask questions

“你说你觉得不安全，那我想知道你的安全感通常从哪里来？”

对方回复[...]“你怎么没说警察？看来警察也不是给你提供很多安全感的東西？”

“你觉得政策不公平，那什么样的政策是让你觉得一碗水端平的？”

“你说你害怕，那你觉得什么样的社会是能让你夜晚出门不再害怕的？”

“什么样的社会是让你觉得公正的？”

Tip:

在对话中，我们不仅仅是space-provider，我们要做的不仅是倾听，还有叩问对方的观点，帮助ta反思。

在日常的narrative中，我们也可以练习如何保护自己的boundary和space，以及从观点交流中feel empowered。

9. Share your visions

“我觉得公正的社会是...”

“我想要生活在这样的社会里，...”

“我希望我的社群可以...”

10. Share your feelings and share thanks (Tip: say thank you instead of say sorry!)

“感觉今天已经聊了很多，我马上有事，可以下次继续吗？”

“我有点累了，要去吃饭，你也休息一下吧，这个话题很复杂，我们以后还可以聊。”

“虽然我们观点不一样，但是觉得你很尊重我，很愿意聆听，谢谢你。”

“你刚刚说的有句话让我有点不舒服，因为[...]”

“我觉得我虽然说了这么多，但是好像一直在重复一样的话，你愿不愿意休息一下，看看我之前发给你的资料，下次再聊？”

“今天谢谢你愿意和我聊这么沉重的话题，希望我们也可以保持对话”

Group 1

Respond to the anti-Black narrative below. Please take turns playing the respondent and give feedback. You can imagine you're talking to your family, your friend, your acquaintance, your weibo follower, your first-time date, etc. Feel free to have fun in acting!

In your group, you have **10min** to talk about this narrative and develop responses. Please refer to the role-play guidelines on pages 4-7.

When you divide into pairs, each pair will have **20 min**.

If your pair has two people, each person has **10 min** to play and get feedback. (*If your pair happens to be three people, each person has **6 min** to play and get feedback.)

After that, we will come back to the whole room. Please time yourselves and make sure both of you get to practice.

Group discussion (10min) - Pair (20 min)

1. 黑人社区不安全, 犯罪率高

“你怎么住那个地方? 那里黑人多, 不安全。电视上每天放枪击案, 我朋友经常被黑人抢劫。那里没有什么好人, 好多都吸毒, 偷东西。我每次路过那里都害怕, 你这样不行, 快搬家吧。”

Group 2

Respond to the anti-Black narrative below. Please take turns playing the respondent and give feedback. You can imagine you're talking to your family, your friend, your acquaintance, your weibo follower, your first-time date, etc. Feel free to have fun in acting!

In your group, you have **10min** to talk about this narrative and develop responses. Please refer to the role-play guidelines on pages 4-7.

When you divide into pairs, each pair will have **15 min.**

Which means that each person has **7-8 min** to play and get feedback.

After that, we will come back to the whole room. Please time yourselves and make sure both of you get to practice.

Group discussion (10min) - Pair (20 min)

2. 黑人体育好，大学有政策倾斜，受优待，更容易进大学

“他们都很轻松的，打打球就进来了，全靠肌肉，不用脑子。而且还有那个政策(affirmative action)，保证黑人进大学。我们SAT要2200分招生官才看一眼，他们不用考就录了。”

Group 3

Respond to the anti-Black narrative below. Please take turns playing the respondent and give feedback. You can imagine you're talking to your family, your friend, your acquaintance, your weibo follower, your first-time date, etc. Feel free to have fun in acting!

In your group, you have **10min** to talk about this narrative and develop responses. Please refer to the role-play guidelines on pages 4-7.

When you divide into pairs, each pair will have **20 min**.

If your pair has two people, each person has **10 min** to play and get feedback. (*If your pair happens to be three people, each person has **6 min** to play and get feedback.)

After that, we will come back to the whole room. Please time yourselves and make sure both of you get to practice.

Group discussion (10min) - Pair (20 min)

3. 作为行动者，黑人更会闹事，所以获得更多优待。黑人利用“黑命贵”打砸抢

“会哭的孩子有奶吃，黑人趁这个机会得到更多特权，而我们亚裔/华人勤勤恳恳还被欺负。现在‘黑命贵’成了政治正确，亚裔的权利越来越少，只说black lives matter不说asian lives matter，就应该All Lives Matter。”

Group 4

Respond to the anti-Black narrative below. Please take turns playing the respondent and give feedback. You can imagine you're talking to your family, your friend, your acquaintance, your weibo follower, your first-time date, etc. Feel free to have fun in acting!

In your group, you have **10min** to talk about this narrative and develop responses. Please refer to the role-play guidelines on pages 4-7.

When you divide into pairs, each pair will have **20 min**.

In your pair, each person has **10 min** to play and get feedback. (*If your pair happens to be three people, each person has **6 min** to play and get feedback.)

After that, we will come back to the whole room. Please time yourselves and make sure both of you get to practice.

Group discussion (10min) - Pair (20 min)

4. 校园安全需要更多警察

“怎么那个骚扰你的人还没被抓起来，肯定是警察不够关注我们这里，最好判个几年，那些别的黑人就怕了。我们的校园安全，那些被白左洗脑的学校领导是不会做什么了，必须我们自己发声。我们是来这里上学的，不是来送命的。”

“坚决将犯罪恶徒绳之以法，绝不姑息。”