

**Thank you** for caring so much about this issue.

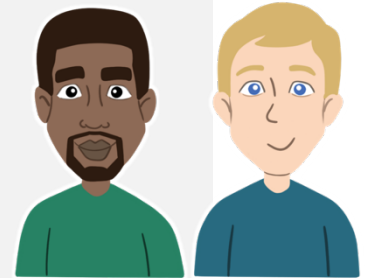
This flyer tells you our perspective on the importance of teaching children about racism. We'd love to hear your perspective, **even if we disagree**.



# Our Perspective

Every country has a complex history, but not every country promotes freedom of thought to reflect on that past, without censorship. Here, in the U.S., we are truly blessed to have that freedom of thought.

So, what is racism in 2021? Ask yourself, **“Would I like to be treated like a person of color?”** and **“Which of these two men would I prefer to choose as my doctor? As my child’s teacher? As my neighbor?”**



Society’s narrative still today is that having lighter skin is **more American** than darker skin. People of color are seen as “others” while having white skin is seen as “normal.” Subconsciously, we often see white individuals as more professional, smart, & trustworthy, while people of color are usually portrayed & seen as dangerous, lazy, & uneducated.

## Aren't only bad people racist?

No, none of us are immune to internalizing racist stereotypes. People of color have been portrayed in negative ways for decades across TV, movies, games, toys, & more.

**Because of these prejudices & centuries of complex historical context & power imbalances, we get systemic problems, racial inequity, & unfair policies.**

How do we **know** this is a systemic problem? Here are just a few examples...



### Education

- 3x more white students than students of color in advanced classes
- 50% of students of color attend high-poverty schools, but less than 10% of white students do
- Students of color are suspended at higher rates than white students across all grade levels, for equal offenses

*National Statistics*



### Criminal Justice

- More than 60% of people in prison are people of color
- America has the highest incarceration rate in the world



### Healthcare

- 50% of children of color live in poverty
- Black women are 4x more likely to die during childbirth even despite following similar health practices as white women during pregnancy



### Access to quality jobs

- The net worth of the average white family is 10x more than that of the average black family
- Black graduates are 2x more likely to be unemployed

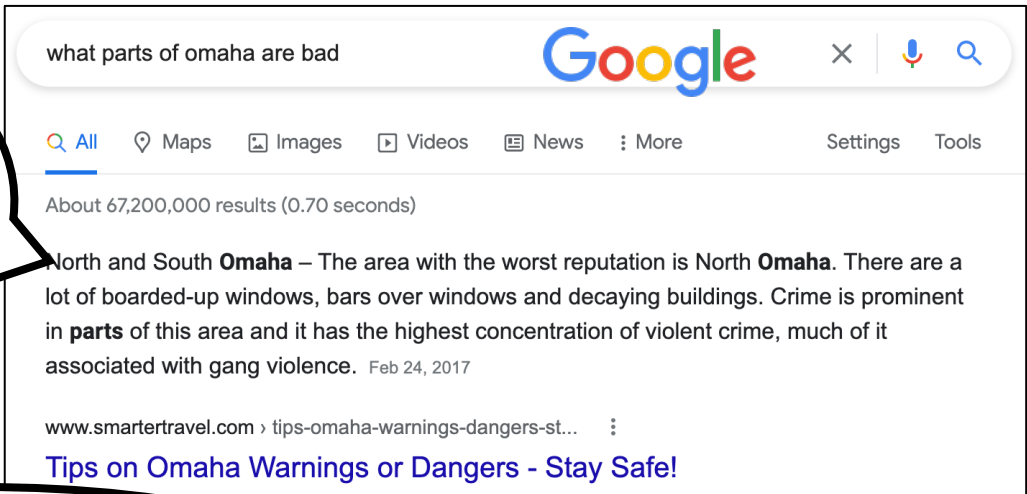
***Having white skin doesn't mean your life is easy or that you haven't worked hard for what you have. It only means that the color of your skin has not worked against you.***



**This handout was created by members of the UNL Racial Justice Alliance, a UNL student organization.**

# Racial Inequity in Omaha (Just one example of how racism operates)

If you do a Google search for “Which parts of Omaha are bad?” it’ll tell you North and South Omaha are “bad.”



Map of Omaha showing the racial divide amongst North (predominantly Black), South (predominantly Hispanic), and West (predominantly White)

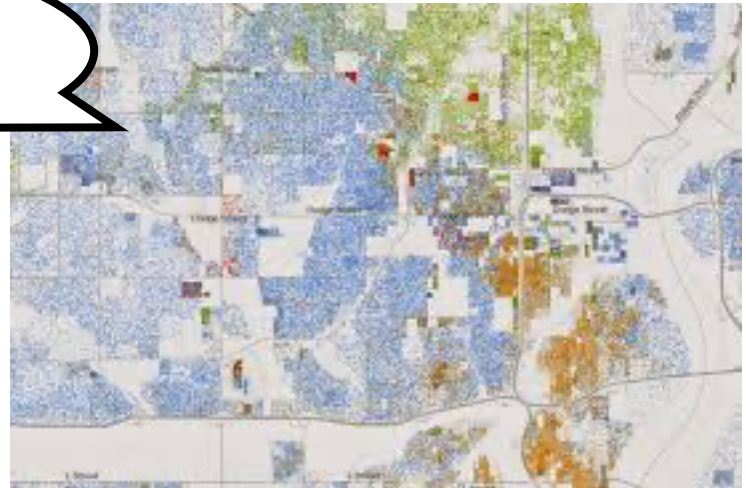


Image by the University of Virginia

But **why** are the areas with Black & Hispanic residents the areas with the most problems? Is it because people of color are simply lazy and immoral? No, of course not. That would be a very racist explanation.

So then, **why**? What are the differences in housing, built environment, commerce centers, and presence of police in these areas? Why exactly are these areas of color “bad”?

These are the sort of questions we want children to engage with. We don’t want children to be told **WHAT** to think. We just want children to learn how to think for themselves and question inequity in the world.

Scan for a list of resources compiled by the UNL Office of Diversity & Inclusion



## A Final Note



**America** is the promise of **justice** and **freedom**. By understanding racism and its historical context, we hope to create a brighter future **for ALL children**.



Scan for a color copy of this handout & all our references on our Racial Justice Alliance website



This handout was created by members of the UNL Racial Justice Alliance.

The UNL Racial Justice Alliance is a student organization on campus. **RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE**

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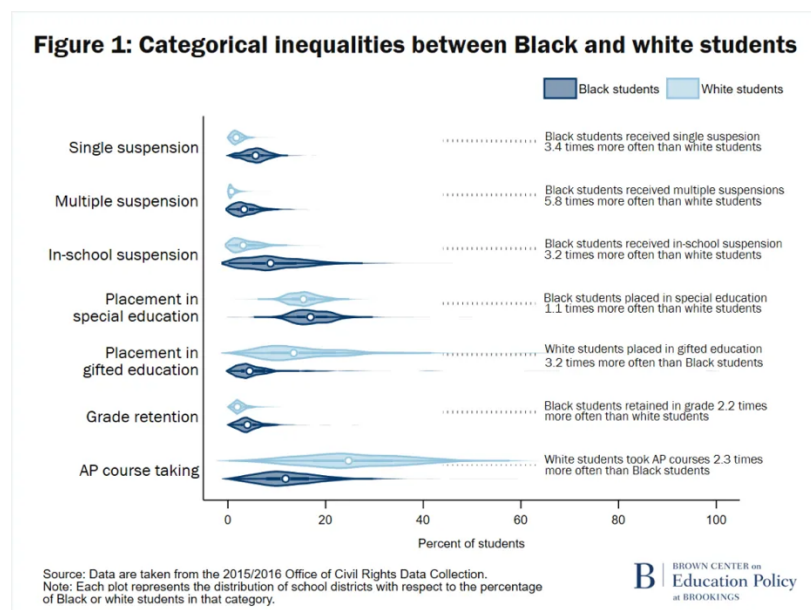
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**understand • recognize • interrupt**