



How White Educators Can Talk Meaningfully about Race in the Classroom

Kristen Iverson & Lauren Jones

Outline

- Why is it important to talk about race in the classroom?
- Context
- Application
- Breakout sessions
- Q&A



The top right corner of the slide features a decorative arrangement of overlapping geometric shapes. These include a light pink triangle pointing down and to the right, a darker pink triangle pointing up and to the right, and a dark pink square. The background of the slide is a solid, vibrant pink color.


Why is it important
to talk about race in
the classroom?

Why is it important to talk about race in the classroom?

Regardless of our subject areas, our students do not live in a vacuum and are experiencing the current racial tensions in this country.

- Hyper segregation
- Mass incarceration
- Institutional racism
- Police brutality
- Racial profiling
- School-to-prison pipeline
- Anti-immigration policy
- Tracking
- Achievement gap
- Stereotype threat
- Bullying
- Disproportionately low amount of teachers of color





It's not what we
teach, it's how we
teach it.

Our Context

- 11th/12th African American Literature at ARHS
- Heterogeneous (un-tracked) class
- History of the class...



What We Teach

- *Jubilee* by Margaret Walker
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley
- *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker
- *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

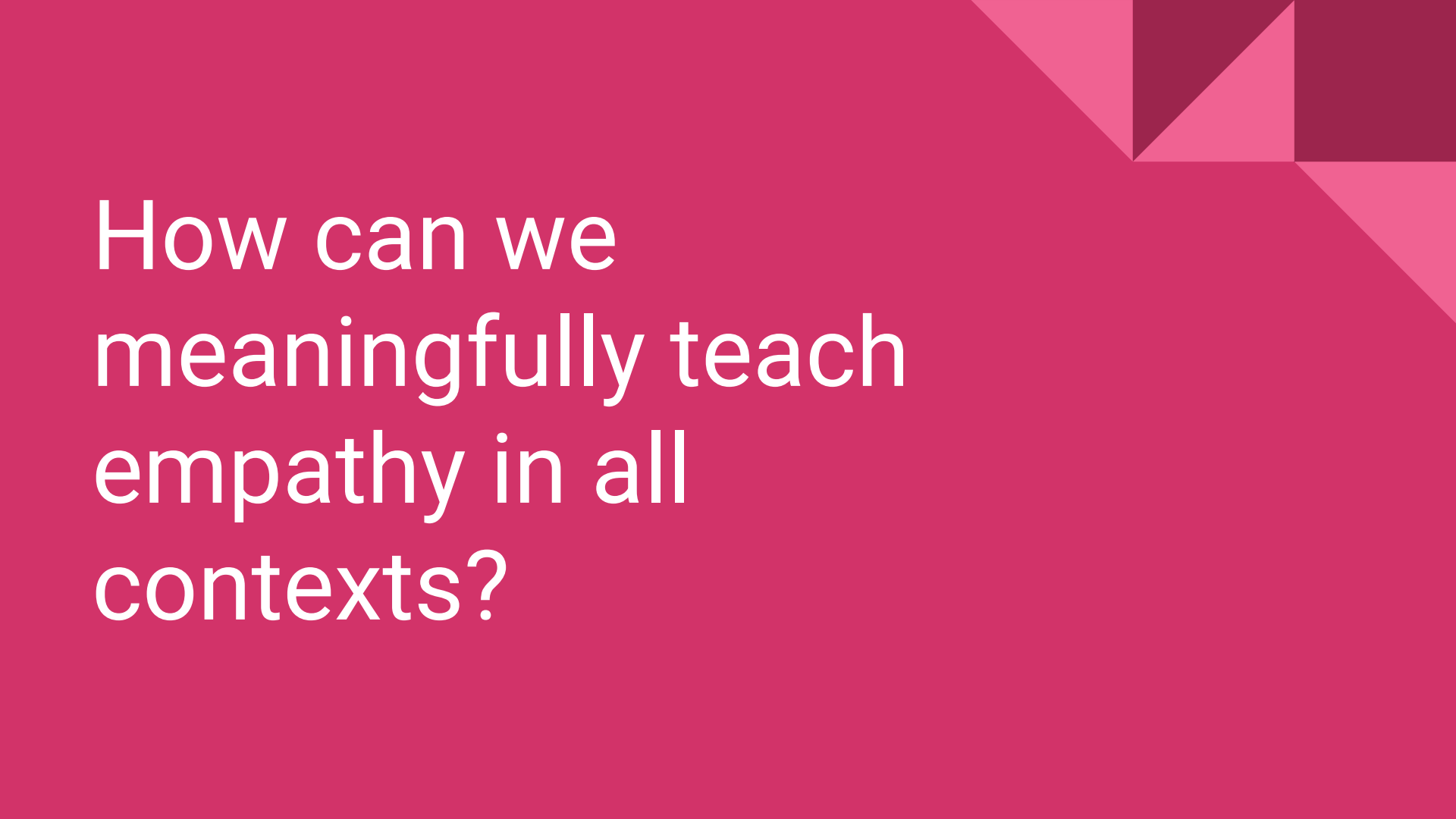


How We Teach It

With EMPATHY!

“Through literature, and specifically, through our intimate connection with Vyry, we discover a history of racism and injustice in America and we are better able to name and address the racism and injustice in our present and future realities. The empathy that students develop for Vyry is transferable and helps them to navigate oppression and hatred by marshalling strength through love, compassion and justice.”



The background is a solid pink color. In the top right corner, there are several overlapping geometric shapes, including triangles and squares, in various shades of pink and magenta, creating a modern, abstract design.

How can we
meaningfully teach
empathy in all
contexts?

Bryan Stevenson, Equal Justice Initiative

1. Be proximate.
2. Change the narrative.
3. Remain hopeful.
4. Be uncomfortable.



[Click to watch Bryan Stevenson's speech about combating racism.](#)

Breakout!

In your small groups, think about **ways in which you can become more proximate, change the narrative, remain hopeful, or be uncomfortable in your classrooms.** *

This doesn't have to mean teaching a whole lesson about race! What is one thing you can do to change how you approach/think about **RACE** and the act of teaching, your school setting, your content area, or your students?

Record each person's idea on the Google Doc sent to you in the chat box. The list of ideas will be sent to participants after the session!

*Should you not identify as white, please feel free to volunteer things you wish white educators would consider in the classroom.

[Hyperlink](#)



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Silence speaks
volumes.