

Implicit Bias

Video Title: Darion

Reflection Sheet: Middle School Students

Use this reflection page to explore the thoughts and ideas on racial bias as expressed in the video *Darion*.

1. At the beginning of the film, Darion says, “(In a community like this) you don’t have security, safety granted to you at all times. You know if you are walking down the street and a police officer sees you, then he is going to keep his eye on you. The people that are stopped, they are going to be African-American. They are going to be Hispanic. They are going to be Latino. Now you have your eye on me because I don’t look like you. If I were another race, that might not happen to me.”

Write a response about how his words illustrate the ways Darion lives with racial bias every day, and then write about how this connects to your own life experiences.

2. Darion’s mom says, “I am very proud of the young man he is becoming and sometimes it throws me off a little bit because it’s just so far from what I expected.” What do you think she expected? Why? How does this statement reflect racial bias?

3. Darion says that he has an “open but very limited” relationship with his father who has been in prison most of his life, but he would like to ask him many questions. Step into Darion’s shoes and create three or four questions he might ask his father about his life choices. Do you think his father had choices? Why or why not?

4. His mom says she told Darion, "Based on your skin color, you just have to work hard. That's just the way of the world." What do those words mean to Darion, to his parents, and to you?

5. Darion speaks of his mindset and how he has control over his life and he pumps himself up with a self-pep talk. How does Darion's self-talk help him? How could a self-talk like his help you in your life?

6. Darion's mom says that the "narrative (of young men of color) needs to change only because it is so incorrect because there are so many kids who are doing great things... and nobody sees it because of the community they are in or because of the school they are going to, you know it's not like anyone's getting the full story that's the right story." What can a person your age do to help the world better see the right "story" or hear the right "narrative" about young men like Darion?

7. When Darion is heading into the police station to go on a ride-along with an officer, he says, "The relationship between law enforcement and people of color needs to be changed." Explain what you think he means. How do actions like going on a ride-along with a police officer help that change happen?
