



What is Racial Justice?

A Presentation for the League of Women Voters of
Southwest Santa Clara Valley's Racial Justice Committee

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Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the ground and waters on which West Valley College is located is historically the home of the Ohlone, Tamien, Muwekma and other indigenous peoples. They were the first to live, celebrate, lament, and sing upon the unceded land where we gather now.

We acknowledge their painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory, and we honor and respect indigenous peoples in the past, present, and future, as well as in their continuing presence in the homeland and in the diaspora.

By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm indigenous sovereignty and our aim to be more responsive and accountable to the needs of indigenous peoples everywhere.

Our Aim Today

1. Define Racial Justice and Injustice
2. Comment on those terms' relationship to Social Justice
 - a. Equality and Equity
 - b. Intersectionality
3. Consider examples of racial justice and injustice
 - a. Example--Critical Race Theory

Define Racial Justice

The concept of categorizing people by race was invented by a few European anthropologists and naturalists in order to support their beliefs that some groups of people are superior.

The concept began in 1735 when Swedish naturalist, Carl Linnaeus, published a book called *Systema naturae*, in which he proposed that human beings be classified into four distinct colors/races: *Europaeus albesc* (whitish), *Americanus rubesc* (redish), *Asiaticus fuscus* (tawny), *Africanus nigr* (blackish).

The term “Racial Justice” refers to fighting against that traditional concept of race and the laws and practices that have elevated the category “whitish” as superior.

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Define Racial Injustice

Systemic discrimination that disenfranchises particular races/ethnicities.

Intentional and unintentional systems and policies that sustain racial inequity in social, political and economic opportunities, and human rights.

Relationship to Social Justice

Racial Justice is a branch of Social Justice.

Social Justice is a political and philosophical theory and practice that focuses on creating and maintaining equity among individuals and institutions in society.

That is, Social Justice refers to having equitable access to opportunities, resources, wealth, participation, privileges, and human rights.

The United Nations uses this definition: "Social Justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities."

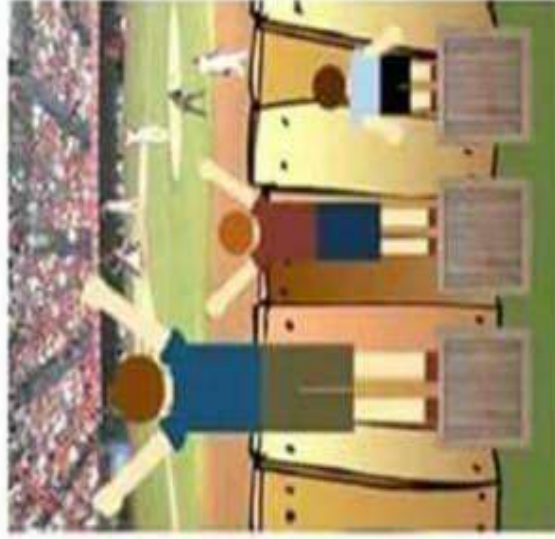
Define Equality + Equity

Equality: is about getting the same things, being equal, having equal access to rights, opportunities, and resources.

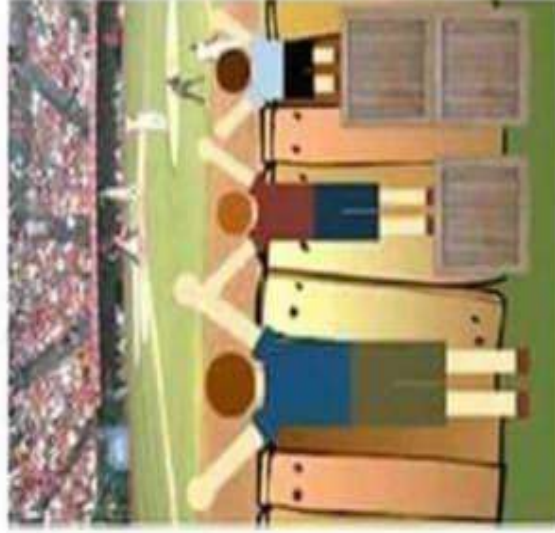
Equity: is about providing what individuals need in order to access rights, opportunities, and resources, which means that equality may look different for each person.

Together, equality and equity shape Social Justice.

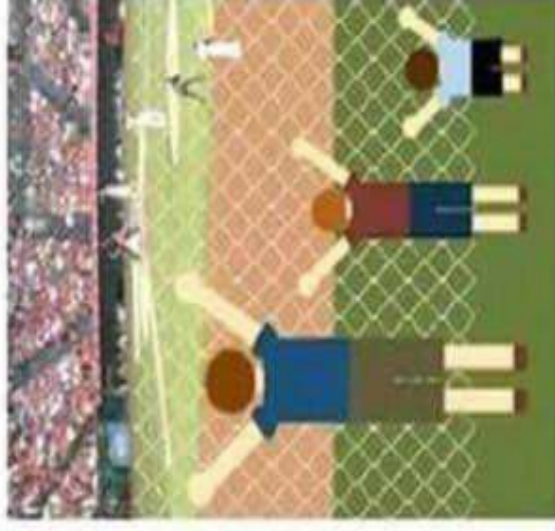
EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



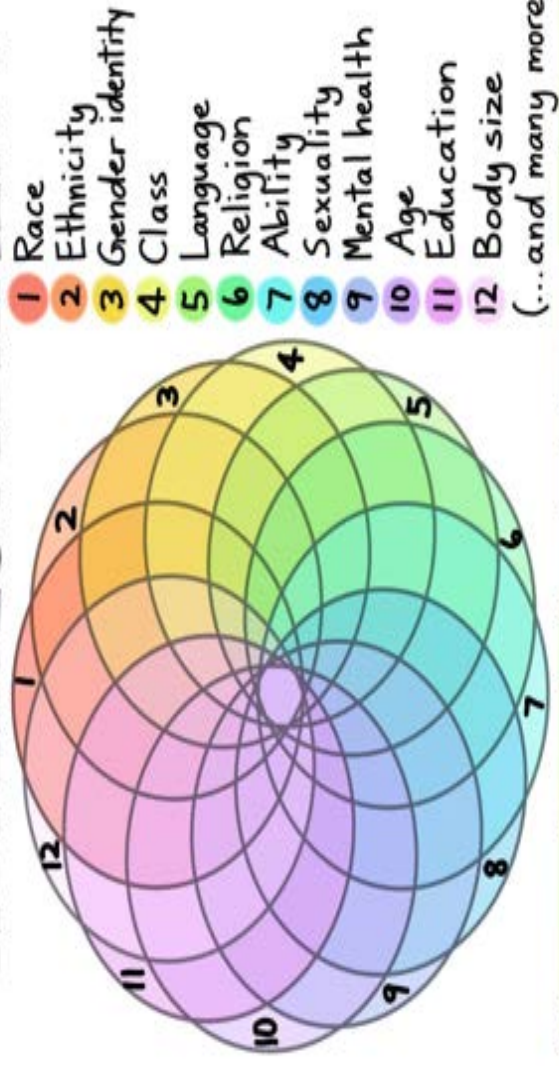
In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

Define Intersectionality

INTERSECTIONALITY



Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it locks and intersects. It is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.

— Kimberlé Crenshaw —

@sylvriaduckworth

Examples of Racial Injustice

Redlining --->home ownership---> generational wealth

African Americans make up 13% of the US population and hold <3% of the wealth

- Educational Redlining
- Business Loan Redlining

Opposition to CRT is Racial Injustice

CRT is a theoretical framework, an approach--an academic and legal concept--designed for students in law schools and advanced graduate programs to examine the reality that the history of white supremacy in the USA has made a lasting impact on our society and institutions.

CRT posits that racism is embedded in American institutions (e.g., the criminal justice system, education system, healthcare system, housing market), and that consequently rules, regulations, and procedures lead to different outcomes by race.

That is, CRT posits that institutions in the USA are inherently, systematically, and structurally racist and riddled with unconscious bias, privilege, discrimination, and oppression.

CRT Con't

CRT is not a commentary on individual Americans.

Racism in American institutions can exist without individual racists.

CRT is NOT a program, a training, or a curriculum. It is a way of understanding our America--and really, a way of understanding equity in the world.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, a founding scholar of CRT, explains: "Critical race theory just says let's pay attention to what has happened in this country and how what has happened in this country is continuing to create differential outcomes, so we can become that country that we say we are. So, critical race theory is not anti-patriotic. In fact, it's more patriotic than those who are opposed to it because we believe in the 13th" and the 14th and the 15th Amendment, we believe in the promises of equality. And we know we can't get there if we can't confront and talk honestly about inequality." (transcript of [CNN interview](#) 22 May 2021; here is the [video version](#))

In other words, CRT asks all of us to look honestly and comprehensively at the realities of who we have been, who we are, and who we want to be as Americans. To deny that is social injustice.



Christopher F. Rufo · 3/15/21

Replying to @realchrisrufo and @ConceptualJames

We have successfully frozen their brand —"critical race theory"—into the public conversation and are steadily driving up negative perceptions. We will eventually turn it toxic, as we put all of the various cultural insanities under that brand category.

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The goal is to have the public read something crazy in the newspaper and immediately think "critical race theory." We have decodified the term and will recodify it to annex the entire range of cultural constructions that are unpopular with Americans.

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So what can we do?

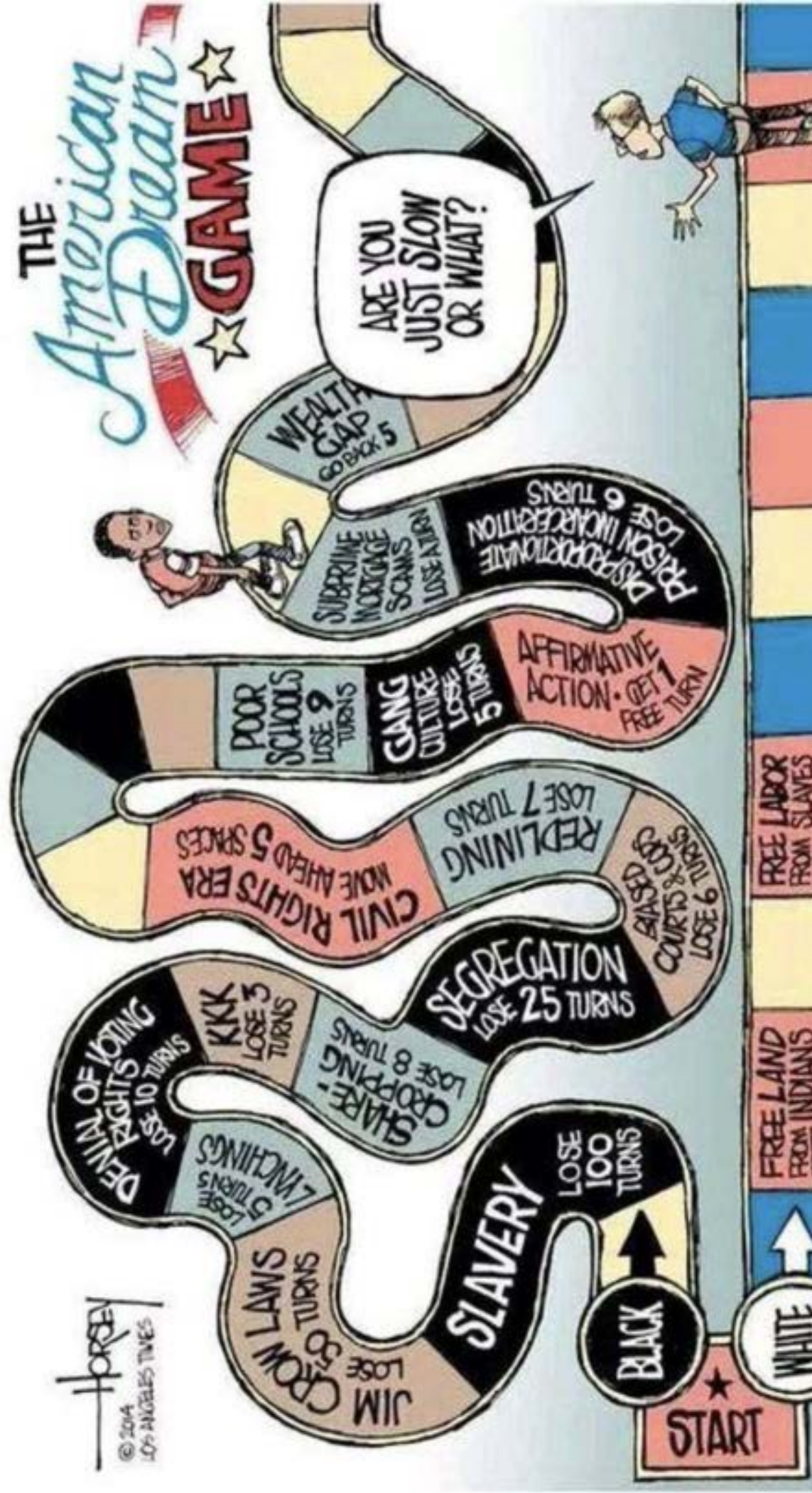
Thank You!

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¡Gracias!

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THE American Dream **GAME**



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