

NO LONGER AFRAID

Engaging Students in Conversations
about Race

BENEFITS & RISKS

- Yellow Stickees:

- What are the BENEFITS of having conversations in class and among students re: race & ethnicity?

- Blue Stickees:

- What are the RISKS of having conversations in class and among students re: race & ethnicity?

- Apply Stickees to “Big Paper”

+/-

BENEFITS

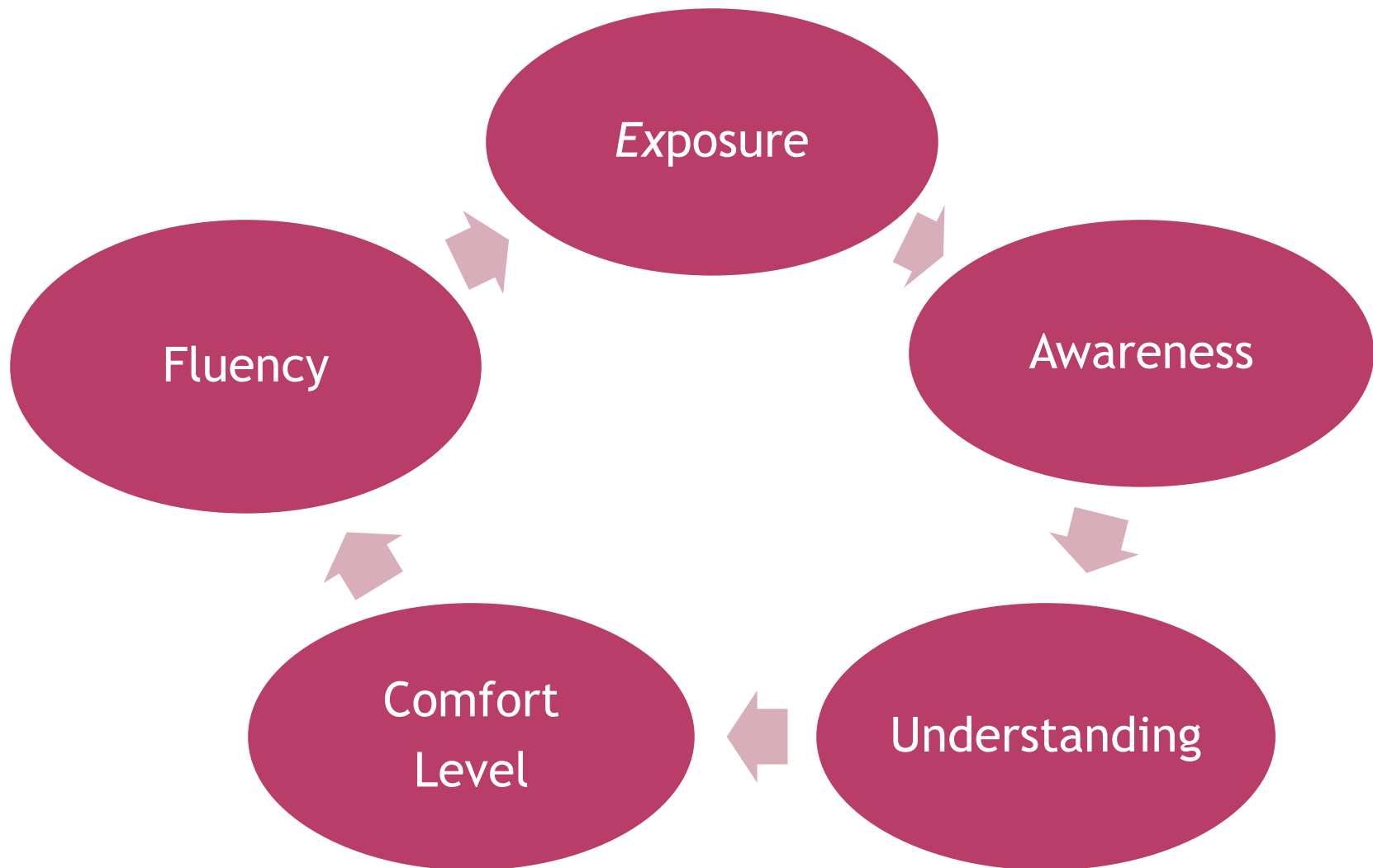
RISKS

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

- ◉ 2018 - majority of children in US will be children of color
- ◉ I, Too, Am Harvard
- ◉ <http://itooamharvard.tumblr.com/>



CULTURAL LITERACY





CONSIDER WHERE
RACE AND YOUR
CONTENT
INTERSECT

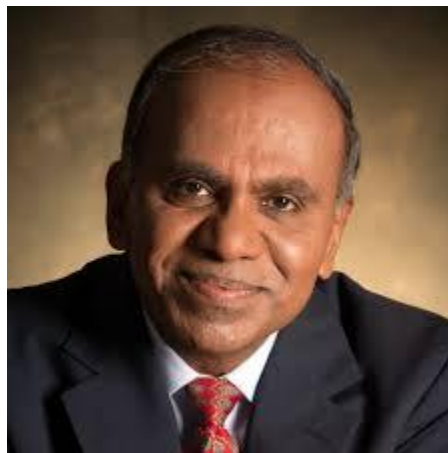
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO INTRODUCE THIS INTERSECTION?

- ◉ What should students learn?
- ◉ To what level do I hope to lead students?
- ◉ Activities?
- ◉ Discussion?
- ◉ Guidelines?



CAN THE STUDY OF LIT LEAD TO INCREASED CULTURAL LITERACY?

- ◉ A set of works by and about an ethnic group in US
 - Common experiences and/or values?
- ◉ Research experiences/values
- ◉ Interview with a member of that community
- ◉ Write a paper to answer the above question



INTERVIEW



- ◉ Identify someone
- ◉ Tell him/her you've been reading
- ◉ You would like to hear about their own experiences
 - Literature talked about X, Y, Z experiences
 - True for you, family or others you know?
 - Literature talks about X, Y, Z values
 - Are these important to you, family or others you know?
 - Might different generations experience these things differently?

STUDENT REACTIONS

- ◉ East coast/West coast
Diverse/Homogeneous
- ◉ Survey
- ◉ Increased CL
- ◉ Interview was the
best part
- ◉ Assignment was hard
- ◉ Discussions in class
became based on
knowledge, routed in
experience



WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

- ◉ “I, Too, Am Harvard” like statements
- ◉ Ignorance

SET PARAMETERS

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

- ◉ Students need more information about people groups which are different from their own.
- ◉ They can then ask an individual to speak about his or her experience
- ◉ Conversation with one person, plus knowledge about the group leads to improved comfort level
- ◉ A combination of academic knowledge and stories leads to cultural literacy

ONE BENEFIT

- of attending a culturally diverse college is to learn how to communicate with folks who are different from yourself in order to learn from each other.
- If students do not experience and become comfortable with these conversations they will miss out on this benefit.....
- And so will we!



#itooamharva

" I don't see
COLOR."

... Does that mean
you don't see Me?