

TED TALK: EQUITY - WHAT IT IS, AND WHY OUR CHILDREN DESERVE IT

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR AMERICAN SPACES

This discussion guide is designed for programming at American Spaces. American Spaces should work with their Public Affairs Section to ensure that this topic and video are appropriate for American Spaces audiences.



VIDEO INFORMATION

Video Title: *Equity: What it is and why our children deserve it*

Year Release: 2019

Duration: 17 min

English Level: Intermediate

Speaker: *Rodney Robinson, Educator.*

Themes: *Equity, meaning every student is given the support they need to be successful*

[Link to Video](#)

VIDEO CONTEXT

President Biden has laid out his vision for building a stronger, more inclusive America. All citizens, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference or gender must be given a fair chance to succeed. By advancing equity, opportunities will be created that will lift under served communities and benefit everyone.

Rodney Robinson teaches disadvantaged students. Here he discusses how through his "whole student" philosophy these young people are inspired to become civic minded, successful adults.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Rodney Robinson is an award winning teacher and lecturer. He teaches middle and high school students at the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center in Virginia.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of STATE
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

KEY VOCABULARY

Equality – The right of all people from all backgrounds to receive the same treatment

Equity - Emphasis is on actual fairness of outcomes: To achieve fair outcomes, sometimes people need to be treated differently to ensure their opportunities are the same as others

Diversity - The differences among humans, which can include gender, race, age, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs

Inclusion - The practice of taking action in order to provide equal access to opportunities for people who otherwise might be excluded

FOR ADDITIONAL READING AND VIEWING

- [Share America: Biden-Harris Administration most diverse ever](#)
- [Voice of America: U.S. Aims to advance racial equity](#)



Discussion Questions

1. President Biden has said he wants all individuals treated in a systematically fair, just, and impartial way. Do you agree?
2. Rodney Robinson believes that all students should receive a quality education that gives them the ability to become successful adults. Teachers alone can't do it all. They need help from others in shaping the young. Parents, administrators, politicians, and students themselves all have roles to play. Do you agree that all of these different people - not just teachers - should have a role in educating students and preparing them for the future?
3. How does the concept of *equity* differ from the concept of *equality*?
4. Have you ever seen a lack of equity in your own school experience? What effect did it have?
5. The United States is a racially and ethnically diverse country of more than 300 million people. What does diversity mean in the context of your country? Do you think creating equity for all is an issue in your country?

Additional Resources

- [The White House: Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#)

