

Racial Roadmap Template....No Wonder this is so Fraught....

The following chart is one way to begin to remember and unpack some childhood experiences about race and racism that have perhaps created feelings about race that you unconsciously carry into rooms where you are dealing with and discussing race. This template offers the chance to think through your memory of what exactly happened (the left-hand column) and then to reflect more deeply (in the right hand column) in an effort to try and identify the feelings or beliefs with which you were left. The questions to ponder are merely suggestions to get you thinking and **more importantly remembering how you felt and what you came to believe.** We hope this helps you to then create your Racial Identity Chart. (a template for this is on the last page of this document)

<p style="text-align: center;">The Narrative of What Happened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you were watching this memory in a movie theater, what exactly would you see happening? ● What do you remember doing/saying? ● What do you remember others around you doing/saying? 	<p style="text-align: center;">Unconsciously....what do you think you learned and have carried with you ever since?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do you remember feeling? ● Did it feel like there were unspoken messages or opinions from the adults around you? ● Has the memory of this event ever come up since? In what context? ● What do you think you learned about your own race?
<p>Narrative of Early Memory (try to think of the earliest memory you have that deals with race)</p>	<p>Unconsciously....have you carried something with you from this experience?</p>

Narrative of Early-ish Memory	Unconsciously...have you carried something with you from this experience?
Narrative of a Third Memory	Unconsciously....have you carried something with you from this experience?

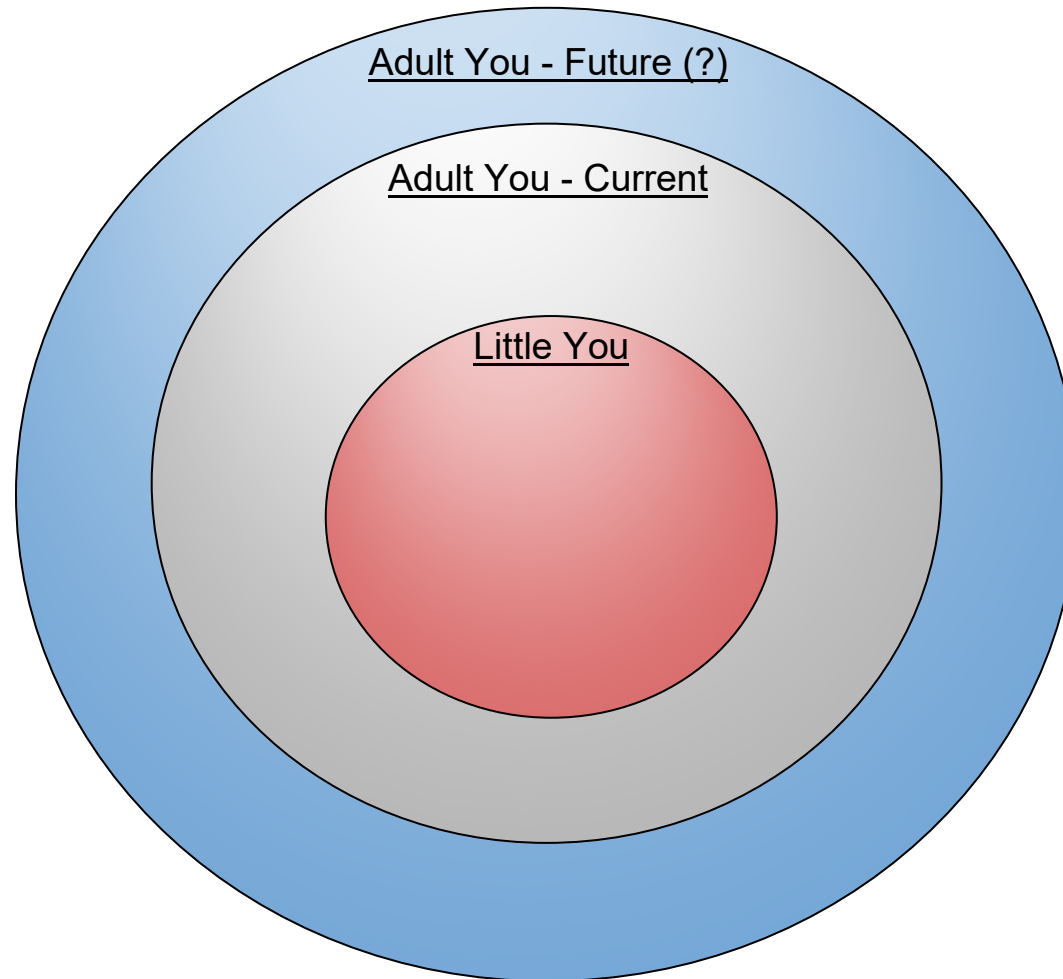
White people learn about what it means to be white through an absence of any discussion of whiteness.

-- paraphrase of Prof Zach Casey, Rhodes College

- When do you think you realized **your whiteness** had meaning? What was the meaning you thought it had? If you were given the following sentences to complete **as a young child**, how do you think you would have completed them?

White people are _____.

People who are not white are _____.



On the last page, there are some final suggestions for reflection.

The Framing Question for our Class this semester is: “How is my racial identity shaped and reshaped by the history I have learned and the circumstances I have encountered in my life?”

As you reflect on your racial self in the context of our Framing Question consider the following questions:

- When issues or conversations about race occur today what is the first feeling activated within you?
- What early experience(s) might be the reason for this?
- Where can you have **compassion for yourself**?
- How could that compassion expand your heart and your presence in situations, conversations and work about and for racial justice?