Family Activity

Segregation Signs

Designed for families with younger children, this activity invites viewers to observe and analyze a series of racial segregation signs. Children ask adults to talk about their own memories or family stories of seeing these signs or other items that reinforced segregation and racism. Family members consider personal experiences of prejudice and racism.

This guide is an accompaniment to the online exhibition, For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights:

http://www foralltheworldtosee.org
A NOTE ABOUT GRAPHIC IMAGES

Some of the images in For All the World to See are graphic in nature. They are included because of the vital role they played in the modern civil rights movement.

DURATION

Twenty to thirty minutes.

MATERIALS

Access to For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights either online, in the companion book, or at a physical venue. Focus on these images:

Colored: Seated in Rear, 1929
We Serve Colored: Carry Out Only, 1931
http://www.umbc.edu/cadvc/foralltheworld/section1/segregation.php

BACKGROUND READING

Berger, Maurice. For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2010).
http://www.umbc.edu/cadvc/foralltheworld/book/

ACTIVITY

Examine each photograph of the segregation signs. Ask your children to read the words out loud. Prompt conversation with any of the following questions:

What do these words mean to you?
What are the signs telling people to do? Do you think that this is fair?
Why do you think these sign were created?
Where do you imagine such signs were placed? Who put them there and why?
What is race?
What is racism?
What is prejudice?
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Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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