

Types of Racism

Year 9/10, English



What is racism?

Racism can take many forms, from large-scale systems to everyday interactions. Today, we'll explore three types of racism:

- systemic
- casual
- microaggressions

Racism is discrimination or prejudice against someone based on their race or ethnicity. It can be intentional or unintentional and affects individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Discussion points:

- How does racism impact people's opportunities?
- Why is it important to recognise different types of racism?

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Systemic racism

Systemic racism refers to discrimination embedded in laws, policies, and institutions. It creates unequal access to resources like education, jobs, housing, and healthcare.

For example:

- Schools in low-income areas (often with higher numbers of minority students) receive less funding than schools in wealthier areas.
- Certain ethnic groups face higher barriers to employment due to biased hiring practices.



Casual racism

Casual racism involves everyday language or behaviour that is offensive or discriminatory. It often stems from stereotypes or ignorance rather than malicious intent.

For example:

- Making jokes about someone's accent or cultural traditions.
- Saying phrases like "You're so exotic" or "You don't look Australian."



Microaggressions

Microaggressions are subtle, often unintentional comments or actions that marginalise someone based on their race or ethnicity. They may seem harmless but can have a lasting impact.

For example:

- Asking an Asian-Australian student, “Where are you really from?” implying they don’t belong.
- Complimenting someone’s English as if it’s surprising they speak it fluently.



How does racism affect people?

Each type of racism affects individuals in different ways:

- Systemic racism restricts opportunities and access to resources, creating unequal conditions for certain groups.
- Casual racism normalises harmful stereotypes and fosters an environment where people feel excluded or unwelcome.
- Microaggressions may seem small, but they create feelings of alienation and subtly reinforce biases through everyday interactions.



What can we do?

We all have a part to play in challenging racism:

- Acknowledge when systemic racism is present in policies and institutions.
- Advocate for meaningful change.
- Be conscious of the language you use and avoid reinforcing stereotypes.
- Stand up against casual racism whenever you encounter it.
- Stay aware of microaggressions, think carefully before speaking or acting.



**Let's consider
the impact**



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