

JUNTOS Workshop Post-Training Survey/Evaluation Results
September 30, 2007

What were the most helpful/positive aspects of today's session?

The small group sessions; the small-group discussion and interactions; I really enjoyed the different examples that were given—they allowed me to picture some of them and I could actually see them and recall similar happenings in my life; working in small groups, handouts/open discussion; the critical thinking, acknowledging racism, and combining adults and youths; the critical thinking elements-I hope I can remember them all; reinvigorated my thinking & resolve to work social justice into all I do; the most helpful aspect was talking about critical thinking; everyone has prejudice, critical thinking, group discussion; building awareness of racism, and building the courage to step in and appreciate the differences; open discussion in group sharing; I learned about what I can do to help and more importantly I learned that there is a difference between recognizing racial differences and being colorblind; there was no fighting or arguing, great personal enrichment, very informational; the in-depth information taken in about how racism affects so much; info—then group discussions; bigger picture, interaction with group; level of engagement/participation by attendees, we have a good group of youth, established/allowed youth to establish the foundations of racism

How can going beyond "cultural awareness" training help you in your participation with JUNTOS?

Understanding the breadth and depth of the issues regarding racism better prepares me for the JUNTOS activities; I don't know; I will be more open to others' cultures and help me realize the racism; Helps people develop a better understanding of other cultures; speaking out on racial comments, telling people about this program and how it can help; to be race conscious, to be aware of the differences; get to the root—study history as understood from LA & Esp. students point of view; it can help me look for racism and correct it; using the critical thinking tool; it can help me to participate more in this program by me being more understanding to the meaning of this program; helps create a foundation for the mission; It shows me why I am even participating in JUNTOS and what I am trying to prevent. Without it I would not know the purpose of my involvement in the program; I will speak up if I feel any racism or tension between members of JUNTOS; It helps me to be more aware of my surroundings and the racism surrounding me. It makes me more interested in JUNTOS; It's very appropriate because of our multi-cultural initiative; Opens up the frame of reference; I still do not know what "the" real root cause of separation between Los Alamos & Española. Is it really due to "Racism" as the speaker defined??

What is your level of understanding of the concept that race is a social construction? How can understanding this concept help you in your participation with JUNTOS?

This concept should be self-evident, but at times, I do find myself "rising the momentum" and just going with the flow. Being better prepared helps me to avoid the pitfalls of not thinking; It makes sense and confirms my own thinking on the issue, which has been developing for some years; I'm still building my understanding for social construction; Helps as a teaching tool to increase awareness in our young people; That society has created races and racism. That the privilege[d] have the power. Be aware to help it be equal; considered before—makes me want to re-read all my Freire books—apply to JUNTOS? Popular education model?; I believe that I now have a better understanding; social and subjective, by having a better understanding, I am more informed for the JUNTOS discussion; The

world is full of different cultures. Society has created racism. This understanding can help me in my participation with JUNTOS by me being able to step in and voice my opinion; I agree that certain aspects of race are socially constructed—I also know from being in the medical field that certain aspects are biological—for these purposes in this context—I support awareness of the social construct; My understanding is still not amazing but it is fare better than when I entered the workshop. This concept can help me with JUNTOS because I knew when I joined I was fighting racism but now I know what race is and how racism is a negative consequence of it; today was an “eye opener” for me on the subjects of race, culture, and ethnicity. The knowledge I gained today will help me not only in JUNTOS but in my everyday life as well; I understand it now, pretty well, as society at large mainly focuses on the racial differences, no the similarities; help me move into valuing all cultures; helps me question my [??] responses, more aware; If the presenter used more concrete examples of “social construction” such as laws that were formulated to strengthen racism.

How does the idea that there is no such thing as “reverse racism” (based on the O=P+P model) affect the way you think about racism in our society?

I already knew this (from previous workshops). However, I view both prejudice and racism are vile and only serve to erode the stability and growth of society; I don’t agree. Black people (some) practice racism against white people—usually this takes the form of excessive and unreasoning suspicion. Racism is racism from whatever direction it comes and whatever form it takes. My personal responsibility, however, is to work on my own faults, of commission and omission; It makes me think more deeply about racism and how it affects me. I’ll try to be more conscious about where I’m at in racism and how I see it; Topic was not covered very well!!; racism is only to the people that aren’t in the minority. This is because you need power to be racist; It’s what it is, however reverse racism carries no oppression, so it has no effect/power; Power over vs. power with; understanding that oppression is racism and it is on three levels; I feel there shouldn’t be racism in our society. But there is nothing we could do to change the way those that are racist think. Once way to decrease racism is by raising awareness of the beauty of the different cultures and religions; This was a great new piece of understanding for me—having lived out the country (the US) I have some experience of disenfranchisement and racism; It helps me to see my role in racism. Being biracial I am beginning to understand how I can help racism (color blind vs. recognition, do my part, JUNTOS targets more youth); It changed the way I view racism drastically. People of color can be prejudiced but not racist; it changes the way I think, as you can never fight racism too much; makes sense; gave me an “ah-hah” the power component is powerful; convert (?).

What is one idea or lesson for your own journey and/or work that you connected with today?

Reconnecting my own past experiences with the current needs of my community today; The connection of racism with power and privilege, which I found a confirmation and clarification of my own previous thinking; The critical thinking part is what I will take with me on my journey; the importance of social consciousness; to speak up when I can; socialization cycle; critical thinking—although I knew about it, I had not applied it on a daily basis relative to race issues, more awareness; one lesson I learned was that I should speak up for those cultures that are being put down; definition of racism, social construct with 3 parts; I have to help prevent racism by standing up against racism and staying involved in JUNTOS; I could go on about this one all day!!; to inform more people of racism

and how it is at large and to inform people of JUNTOS; “The most sacred place on earth is where an ancient hatred becomes a present love”; Further strengthening the belief for JUNTOS.

How successful has JUNTOS been in creating a courageous and real conversation about issues of race/racism, equity, social justice, and transformation?

Well, so far, so good. It’s a huge problem and it will take significant effort to spread the word more. But so far, so good; I don’t know; JUNTOS is good at it but for a youth initiative we need more youth to actually get what we want done; 1-10 scale=6; they are good, open, willing but youth are more concerned with “doing” and works; Beginning, we’ll get more youth involved—Potential!; They have done well; Somewhat—everyone plays a role in racism; I feel that JUNTOS did a very good job on teaching these issues; Extremely successful wonderful for [?] and information will continue to be involved; JUNTOS has been very successful in this aspect; We need more people from Española involved. But this was a progressive experience and I am impressed with JUNTOS for putting this subject on the table; very successful; so much better than what was before; Youth began conversation, will make it bigger.

What, in your opinion, is needed to do to go further and deeper?

We need more, lots more, participation by the Española youth; There are 2 dire consequences of racism. One is the effect on its victims. The other is that racism “corrupts its perpetrators.” White Americans do not realize just how corrupt their society is, largely because of this persistent racism; Without youth JUNTOS can’t move forward as a youth initiative. We need to recruit more youth willing to learn and open up their personal boundaries to see the possibilities of JUNTOS; Bring the training to Española...more education on the topic at our schools. Too many adults at the training!! (Very few students); It was good. I don’t know how you can make people learn. They have to come to the table; More dialogue—study each others’ history!; a second workshop; Another workshop—but more group discussion with some action steps to take; Try and get more youth involved in this program. Go to schools and do presentations; Youth engagement, art therapy—creation of consciousness; More youth in the organization. We have to begin to accomplish something because I don’t want to be gone when JUNTOS begins to accomplish things; more meetings and discussions, equal participation from both communities; more youth, and the process of JUNTOS needs to speed up & more activities; More people need to be connected; “summit” program include the social construction of racism and other causes that separate the communities.

What challenge or concern has not been addressed here that you would like to explore further at a future session?

The real question to ask, and answer, is “As a citizen of Los Alamos, what’s in it for me?” This isn’t easy to answer; I would like to see much more time spent in group discussions, perhaps around general questions about race and racism; A better understanding of the specific region and prejudices within the particular meeting would possibly be more valuable; What’s our vision...the biblical “He will make low the mountains [pride] and fill the valleys.” Is it about ego?; classism; The racial profile that the Lab does at security checkpoints; Getting to an action plan for JUNTOS—implement some projects for the kids; I feel that we need more time in our small groups. We need more time to get to know each other and speak out about how we feel about racism; Economic disenfranchisement; None;

Nothing comes to mind; Informing people of JUNTOS; More focus on moving beyond the areas I am possibly blind to; What "JUNTOS" really can accomplish? In concrete/clear objectives.

Other comments about the workshop and/or JUNTOS...

A nice workshop, but way too much material to digest in a single day. Corporate training sessions for people already trained on these issues don't assign even 1/3 as much material in a day; I thought the facilitator's introduction was way too long; her later comments, coming after some group discussion, had far more impact! I appreciate the well-organized format and the effort to work which she put into the workshop. I liked the idea of having youth chair the small groups. Two of the youth in our group left, however, before the discussion began. I thought it was because they got bored—if they had stayed, I think they would have enjoyed it. I was looking forward to listening to their contributions, but it didn't happen!; It was great; Overall good training. **food was not too good, but thank you!! A certificate of participation should be provided. Extra credit for the students for their participation? Trainees should receive a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Johanna is a great speaker!!; Thank you, enjoyable; Thank you, Johanna. You are such a gifted and skilled teacher in the are of racism and social justice. You gave us a model to expand on. Thank you, Lori, too; Keep it going—thank you. I was impressed with the folks in my group; I felt that it was done well. It raised my awareness of the racism that is out there; Very excited about being involved in grass roots movement for social transition; Let's make the murals!; Thank you Johanna! I hope there are more workshops like this one in the future; There were great conversations and great ideas brought up; Johanna! Thank you for coming and providing the workshop.