

MCS Selective

The Writing Away Racism Project (WARP): Becoming An Anti-Racist Physician

Course Description:

Can we dismantle systemic and interpersonal racism in medicine? The Writing Away Racism Project (WARP) hopes to do just that! WARP is a series of creative writing workshops that offers safe spaces for attendees and facilitators to develop practical knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to unlearn racism and promote anti-racist behavior. This MCS selective offers four highly interactive, memorable and effective workshops that use inspiring poetry and thought-provoking quotes to encourage authentic conversations and a transformative growth experience.

No prior writing experience is needed! Just your presence and willingness to engage with this immersive experience. The goal is to help transform students from being “not racist” to being “anti-racist” as this is more effective for dismantling racism in daily life and in healthcare. Through the power of deep listening and consistent critical reflection, WARP aims to humanize complex issues, empower students, and build a collective commitment to equity and inclusion in medicine.

Instructors:



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Educational Objectives:

At the conclusion of this selective you will have the ability to:

- differentiate between race, racism and anti-racism.
- recognize and use creative writing as a tool for self-reflection.
- implement close reading skills and demonstrate radical listening.
- describe and practice the key skills involved in being anti-racist.

Sessions:

- Week 1: Recognizing the individuality and shared humanity of people
- Week 2: Educating yourself to accept denial of internal biases
- Week 3: Intending to be Anti-racist & Knowing Why
- Week 4: Performing an anti-racist behavior/action

Responsibilities for Successful Completion:

To complete and pass the selective, a student must:

- Attend the four workshop sessions
- Participate in group discussion and reflective writing activities
- Keep confidentiality: both regarding reference to patients and personal revelations of group members
- Be respectful – don't challenge the personal experiences people share
- Stay within your comfort zone when revealing feelings/experiences

(The last three help maintain a safe, welcoming environment for authentic and meaningful discussion.)

Pre-requisite Assignments

Students are encouraged to review the following videos and article prior to the first class:

1. Dorothy Roberts, *The Problem with Race-Based Medicine*
https://www.ted.com/talks/dorothy_roberts_the_problem_with_race_based_medicine?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare
2. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *The Danger of a Single Story*
https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare
3. Kendra Cherry, *What is Anti-racism?*
<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-anti-racism-5071426>

Class size: Minimum 6, Maximum 18.