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BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CARE

20. Representation Matters

Module 4: Empowerment, Action and Allyship
(Secondary)

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Learning Goal:



To consider different ways that various groups of people are presented in media and how those representations affect our identity and the identity of others.



Think about the people you see in your everyday life:

- While you're walking in your neighborhood?
- Who is in the videos you watch?
- Who are the characters in the books you read?
- Who are the members of the bands and music you listen to?
- Who are the characters in the video games you play?
- Who do you see at your school/work?

How important is it to you to see images you can relate to?

How important might it be to people who are marginalized, or face stigma or stereotypes based on their identifiers?

Minds On – Quote Analysis



Representation is “so important because what we see in the media dictates how we think about the world.”

- Amandla Stenberg

- Think about some recent films, “Black Panther”, “Crazy Rich Asians”, “Wonder” or “Love, Simon.” Why have these movies been a welcome addition to the narrative of representation?
- What does it mean to be represented in different forms of media? (books, ads, music, video games, social media, etc.)

TASK – Critical Thinking



Everyone is responsible for answering questions 1, 10, and 11 and selecting at least one other question for analysis.

1. What is 'normal' or 'accepted' in media – film, television, news, social media, print ads, commercials, video games, music, etc.? How have we been taught what is 'normal'?
2. How are Black characters often portrayed in film and television?
3. Can you name a lead actor/main character in a movie that is Indigenous?
4. How are other racialized people commonly portrayed in the media?
5. How are females commonly portrayed in film or music videos?

TASK – Critical Thinking



Everyone is responsible for answering questions 1, 10, and 11 and selecting at least one other question for analysis.

6. How are people with disabilities usually portrayed in different forms of media?

7. How are the lives of Two Spirit & LGBTQIA+ people portrayed in media?

8. How many main characters can you name that have intersectional, marginalized identities?

9. How many movies or shows can you name that have a white, heterosexual, cisgender, male, able-bodied main character?

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TASK – Critical Thinking



Everyone is responsible for answering questions 1, 10, and 11 and selecting at least one other question for analysis.

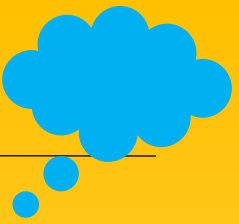
10. Should we accept these representations? Is this fair/accurate? Why? or Why not?

11. How can we work to unlearn what has been “the norm” and demand a more representative sample of people in different forms of media? (Not only for the way people are represented, but also life in general).

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Digging Deeper – Our Class & Our School



- **Classroom Audit:** How do we ensure that representation matters in our classroom, in our school, in our community, in our world? What things around the classroom are not representative of the diverse Hamilton we live in today?
- **School Audit:** What diverse materials are currently present in our school (i.e., posters, magazines, hallways, school website)? What groups are represented? Who is missing? What groups are misrepresented – stereotypical representation?

Self-Reflection

How can you include people who are 'other' than you, in what you create and 'consume'? (stories, media, videos, fashion, building design, your words....)



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