

## **Open Your Class With This Tomorrow- *So You Want To Talk About Race***

At the end of the book, Oluo provides discussion questions. If you are going to talk to your class, friends, or family about the challenging issue of race, this is a good guide to use. Below is an amended version of the discussion from the book tailored for a classroom environment.

### **Overarching Agreements**

1. Be here to participate 100% and be engaged in the conversation at all times whether or not you are speaking.
2. Do not speak for anyone else in the group. You do not know their experiences.
3. Do not cut anyone off or speak over them, especially when upset or feeling challenged. You will have your chance to speak.
4. Do not allow any comments that are racially disparaging or aggressive.

### **Basic Guidelines**

1. If speaking with a primarily White group, give people of color advanced warning that this discussion will occur and the topics that will be addressed.
2. Try to focus the conversation around non-White voices and specifically non-male voices.
3. Ask each person what they hope to gain from the conversation.
4. Allow for feelings and expressions of anger but maintain boundaries.
5. Try to tie the discussion into things that are happening in your community.
6. Do not allow white group members to treat their discomfort as harm done to them.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How could a person's background as an inter-racial individual allow them a different perspective on race than someone who is White, Black, Asian, or Hispanic?
2. How can a person's access to privilege make them blind to some of the struggles people of color experience on a frequent basis?
3. When Oluo explains that the collective small actions all add to a gaping wound, what does that mean?
4. What are some microaggressions that you have witnessed or heard of? Why can these be as hurtful as overt acts of racial aggression?
5. What can you do to create a tone that helps facilitate a productive conversation about race?
6. What specifically can you do in your community to take responsibility that everyone feels like a contributing member of the school community?