4.5 Thinking About Race in Academia

**Objectives**
Analyze the influences of race as it relates to academia.

**Materials needed**
Pen and paper or copies of the handout
Possibly, reference materials

**Time needed**
Thirty to sixty minutes

**Instructor directions**
Ask your students to write an autobiography of how experiences in their major have been racialized.
Have them answer questions about ways it has influenced them.
Collect individual assignments or discuss in large group.

**Variation**
Have your students write autobiographies of how experiences in their majors or fields have been genderized.
4.5  Thinking About Race in Academia Handout

**Directions**
Write an autobiography of how experiences in your major or field have been racialized.

Answer the following questions:
Do your instructors look like you? In what ways do they look the same or different?

How do your instructors treat people who are like you? Who are different?

Do other students in your major look like you? How do they treat people who are like you? Who are different?

Do your textbooks contain information by or about people like you?
What are some similarities and differences between you and the people who research, write, grant funding, and make policy in your major or field?

**Variation**
Write an autobiography of how experiences in your major or field have been genderized.