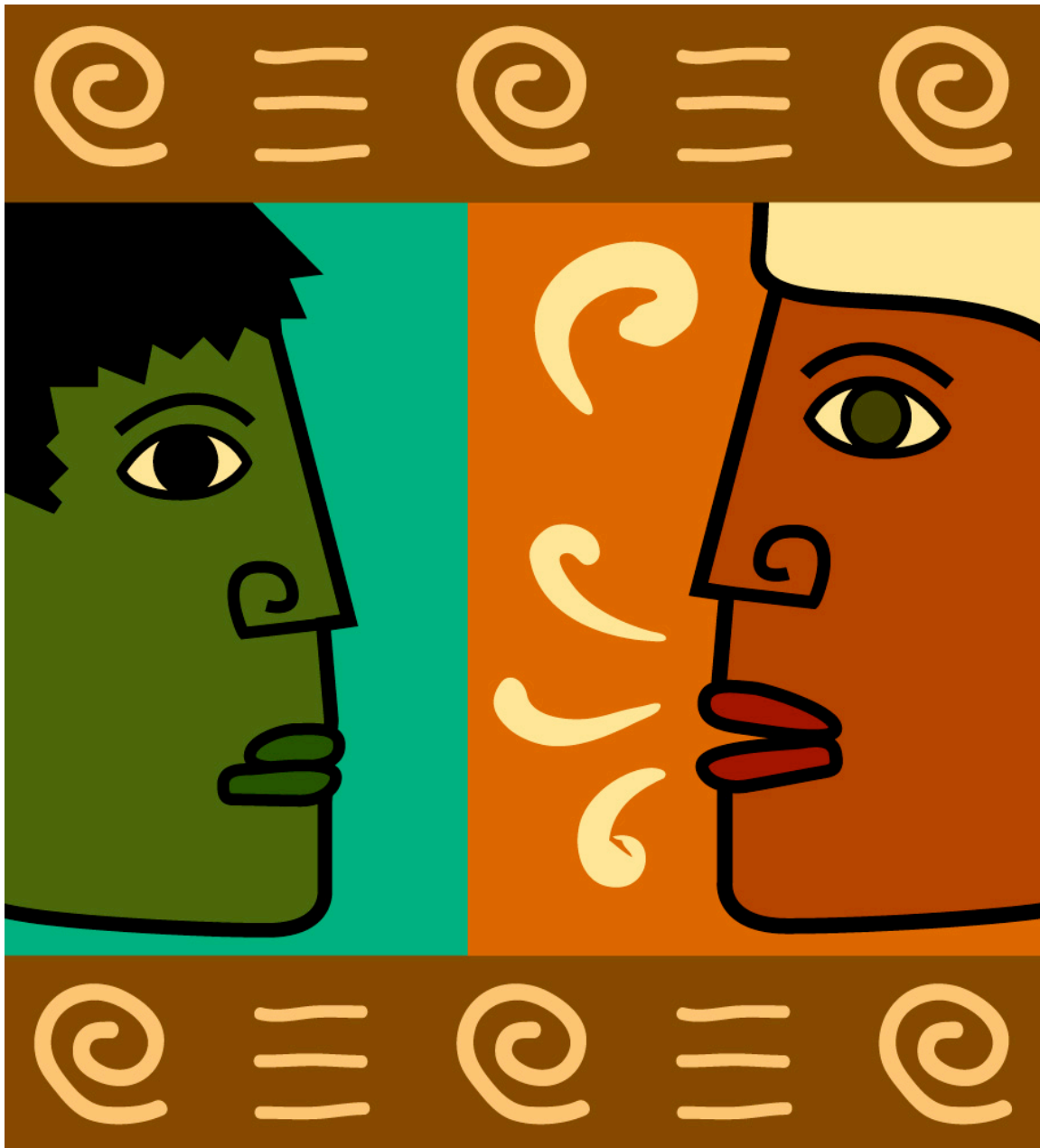


# The Voices Project



***Preparing you  
for a Changing World***

Produced by the Office of Community and Diversity

Oregon State  
UNIVERSITY **OSU**

## Welcome to the Voices Project

Thank you for being part of the Voices Project! This project is designed to prepare you, the viewer, for a world of difference. Our 21<sup>st</sup> century world will be very different than what our parents experienced and different than what you have experienced up until now. Through the process of viewing and discussing these documentaries, you will be challenged to examine your assumptions about the world around you. The dialogues you will have are not about providing you with quick answers or easy solutions, but rather broadening your perspective. It is our hope that by listening to these authentic voices of others, that you experience shifts in awareness that impact your critical thinking, relationships with others and with yourself.

Each documentary is made up of two sections that are approximately 30 minutes in length. You will not need to watch one to understand the other.

Based upon our previous experiences with these documentaries, we strongly suggest that it is better to watch the Voices Project and discuss it with others than it is to watch it by yourself.

### Facilitator's Guide

We recommend that as a facilitator, you do the following:

- Prior to viewing, we recommend that you share with participants what questions you will be asking.
- Following the screening, break the group up into smaller groups of 4-5 participants so that each person has a chance to reflect and comment on what they have seen.
- Allow 15 – 20 minutes for small group discussion after each half of the video, followed by sharing within the larger group.

If the viewers will be watching this video series as a cohort, we encourage inviting the group to an initial meeting so that they can get to know each other and talk a bit about their histories to date. (Where did they grow up? Was their environment homogeneous or diverse? How did that affect them and the way they move through the world? Have they traveled abroad? What has been their most impactful diversity experience to date?, etc.)

### Guidelines for Discussion

- As with any documentary, there may be points made that a viewer may disagree with, or someone in the room will disagree with....this makes for a rich conversation following the film.
- Strive to create a safe and respectful atmosphere.
- Listen generously, with an open mind and heart.

- Always use “I” statements.
- Avoid critiquing the video or others’ experiences; focus on your own reactions.
- Sharing is voluntary and should be about one’s own reactions, perceptions, etc.
- Each person has a right to and responsibility for his or her own feelings, thoughts, and beliefs.
- It is important to avoid criticism or judgment about an individual’s sharing, point of view, and/or feelings.
- Refrain from singling out any individual as “representing” his or her group or issue.
- If the conversation becomes difficult, we encourage you to stay with it, as this is when profound learning can occur.
- Be open to the kernel of wisdom in each person’s story.

## About the Videos

### Volume 1 Multiracial Identities

OSU students, staff and faculty share their experiences and challenges of being multiracial at OSU and in life. They address issues such as their identity and when they realized it; their cultural attachments; how others perceive them; their family interactions; the pros and cons of being multi-racial; whether there is anything they would change about their identity, advice for others and why this issue is important.

#### Discussion Questions

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about multiracial identities?
- What has your personal experience been with people with multiracial identities?
- What has your work experience been with people with multiracial identities?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you’d like to know more about?
- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 2**

### **The World in OSU**

OSU students from around the globe share their stories of living in Corvallis and how it has challenged their perceptions of themselves, their homes and America. They address issues such as their thoughts on diversity; the value of international students; the biggest differences among college campuses; their thoughts on Hurricane Katrina; their biggest challenges; the biggest issues in the world; funny things they have been asked and their favorite sayings from their homeland.

#### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about people from other countries that visit or live in America?
- What has your personal experience been with people from other countries that visit or live in America?
- What has your work experience been with people from other countries that visit or live in America?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?
- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 3**

### **OSU in the World**

OSU students share their stories of living and studying abroad and how it has changed their perceptions of themselves and America. They address issues such as the people and schools in their host countries; comparisons between those countries and the US; global politics; their biggest challenges; their favorite sayings from their host countries; what they learned from their experience; advice on studying abroad; feeling like an American ambassador; becoming a global citizen and what diversity means to them.

#### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about the American experience abroad?
- What has your personal experience been with traveling abroad?
- Which region of the world would you like to visit the most? Why?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?

- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 4 Being Black**

OSU students, staff, and faculty share the opportunities and challenges of being black at OSU and in Corvallis. They address issues of terminology; obstacles they have faced; assimilation; racism; media portrayal of Blacks; what they see as strengths and advice for others.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about Blacks/African-Americans?
- What has your personal experience been with Blacks/African-Americans?
- What has your work experience been with Blacks/African-Americans?
- Is there anything you heard today that will help you connect with people from other ethnicities?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?
- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 5 I Am A...**

OSU faculty, students and staff discuss the different ways they identify (i.e. by gender, ethnic group, sexual orientation, political affiliation, race, etc.). They address issues such as what they want people to know about their group; their opinions of others; how they feel about how the media portrays their group and other groups; the triumphs and downfalls of their groups; advice to their groups and their hopes for the future.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about the way people identify?
- Which identities tend to be visible or invisible at your workplace?
- What identities do you share with others at work? Are these the same identities that you share at home?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?

- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 6 Disabilities**

OSU students, staff and faculty with a wide range of disabilities share their stories of being differently-abled at OSU and in life. They address issues such as the changes they have made to cope with their disabilities; the biggest misconceptions others have about them; things they would like people to understand; how they would like to be approached by others; advice to someone with a similar disability and advice to people who want to be allies.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about differently-abled people?
- What has your personal experience been with differently-abled people?
- What has your work experience been with differently-abled people?  
What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?
- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 7 Saudi Students**

OSU students from Saudi Arabia share their stories of life at OSU and in the local community and address such issues as how they felt when they first learned they were coming to the US; what surprises them most about living here; when they feel most comfortable here; what surprising questions Americans have asked them; what they find difficult about living in Corvallis; how their life has changed since coming to the US; how their perceptions about Saudi Arabia have changed and what they will miss when they return home.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about people from Saudi Arabia?
- What has your personal experience been with people from Saudi Arabia?
- What has your work experience been with people from Saudi Arabia?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?

- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 8 Greek Life**

Students involved in a wide variety of fraternities and sororities share their stories of what Greek life really means to them. They address such issues as what motivated them to join a Greek house; whether it meets their needs; how the community views the Greek system; biggest misperceptions portrayed by the media and addressing the biggest stereotypes.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about people in the Greek system?
- What has your personal experience been with people in the Greek system?
- What has your work experience been with people in the Greek system?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?
- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

## **Volume 9 Being Latina/o...**

OSU faculty, staff and students share the opportunities and challenges of being Latina/o at OSU and in Corvallis. They address issues such as what they like to be called and why; positive and negative aspects of their culture portrayed in the media; barriers they have overcome; whether the Spanish language is an important part of their identity; their views on immigration; their involvement in the community around their cultural traditions; their advice to people who want to know more about their culture and what they see in the future for Latina/os in the U.S.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What jumped out at you or resonated with you the most?
- What surprised you?
- What did you agree or disagree with?
- What did you learn today that made you question your assumptions about Latina/os?
- What has your personal experience been with Latina/o people?
- What has your work experience been with Latina/o people?
- What did the interviewees discuss that you'd like to know more about?

- What did you learn today that would help you connect with others in a changing world?

We hope you have enjoyed your experience with these documentaries and that you have experienced truly authentic dialogue with others. If you have questions about the videos or about facilitation the screening and discussion of them, please contact our office at 541-737-4382 or [diane.davis@oregonstate.edu](mailto:diane.davis@oregonstate.edu). Further information about the office of Community and Diversity and our work can be found at <http://oregonstate.edu/diversity/>