

## Ethnic Studies Questions to Uncover (Neo)Colonialism

- 1) Who had power? Who has power? (e.g. Is it the wealthy, the poor?)
- 2) Who decided? Who decides? (e.g. Was it men, immigrants?)
- 3) How did/do the people in power maintain or keep that power? (e.g. Do they limit voting? Do they choose their own 'race' for leadership positions?)
- 4) Who did not/does not have power? (e.g. Is it women, people of color, the elderly?)
- 5) How do those in power discipline/punish/control those who are not in power? (e.g. Do they incarcerate people of color at higher rates? Hire and promote lighter-skinned applicants for jobs? Make laws that benefit the wealthy? Keep native languages out of public schools?)
- 6) Who gave/gives names to things, ideas, people, and places? (e.g. Did the colonizing country re-name the plants and animals?)
- 7) Who wrote/writes the books and educated/educates people? (e.g. Are only university-educated people allowed to publish books? Are only native English speakers writing books?)
- 8) Whose language, culture, stories, ways of being and thinking were/are promoted by those in power? (e.g. What do teachers teach? Who is represented in the picture books and history texts?)
- 9) Who and what was/is promoted as important, a role model, a positive historical figure? (e.g. Who is written about in history books and magazines and how? Is it the White male 'founding fathers'? Cesar Chavez? Dolores Huerta?)
- 10) Who was/is asked to mimic whom? (e.g. Do you have to have 'accentless' English? Are you encouraged to dress more like a particular group of people?)
- 11) How were/are those not in power minimized, separated, demoralized, dehumanized, demonized, and dominated? (Are the evil characters in movies given Mexican accents? Are unions that advocate for rights of workers of color ignored? How are Black men incarcerated more often and punished more severely than white men?)
- 12) How did/do those in power protect themselves from criticism, separation, demoralization, dehumanization, demonization, and domination? (e.g. Do wealthy parents only volunteer at their wealthy school? Are art and music of people of color funded as often as art and music of whites?)
- 13) Who and what was/is considered civilized and uncivilized? (e.g. Are European-American classical composers seen the same way as Black American musicians?)
- 14) Who was/is watched and who was/is watching them? (e.g. Who places camera in which schools and in other public institutions? Who is pulled aside in airport security? Who pulls them aside for an 'extra security check?')
- 15) Whose land was/is it? How is the land controlled? (e.g. How has this land come to be known as the United States of America by some? Why? What type of land is 'Indian reservation'?)
- 16) Who had/has control over capital/money? How was/is it maintained? (e.g. Where is wealth most concentrated in the United States? What are the laws about passing down wealth to children?)
- 17) How was/is this an example of an institution controlling access to power? (e.g. standardized testing that determines your life outcomes by tracking people into a lower level class as early as 8 years of age etc.)