

SED 552

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When I first went to the site to take the baseline test I did not know what to expect. After I went through it I was frustrated that I did not get a score or grade or some type of baseline. I know it said that there would be no outcome but I still wanted one. I guess that is the teacher in me – I need feedback. *I know!!*

I found that after taking the test I really wanted to know the answers to some of the factual questions. I did not go to Google to look up the information and find it out for myself; I wanted the website to tell me. Again, I guess this is another difference between now and even five years ago. We are so used to getting everything right away and just given to us. This is one of my constant battles with my kids. They want to understand something in five minutes; they don't want a homework assignment that requires them to think for too long. Well, sorry children, it does not always work like that. *And yet ironically, it makes us feel the same way!*

I felt like the quote about Jewish people being singled out and forced to leave was a trick question. Was it Hitler? My curiosity just got the best of me while I am (was?) typing this and I looked it up on-line. It was a trick question – it was General Grant in 1862. I would think the website would want to tell people the correct answer if they got the question wrong. I think that many feel that Hitler and the Nazis were the only people in history to do such horrible and unthinkable things to other races. To see such an ugly statement come from the U.S., and a future President, would educate people. I think most people would not be surprised to read that statement about black people or slaves from an American general in our country's history, but I

know I was surprised to read it about Jewish people. Now I want to know what the effects were. Are the Jewish populations still very small in Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi even today? Do the Jewish people in those states know about this part of their states' history?

great questions

I logged in as an instructor to the website and was able to get the correct answers. Mine were very wrong. George Washington had 317 slaves? I put 20. I wondered if the history teachers in my class knew about this. Maybe I just wasn't paying attention in history. Is this stuff common knowledge? I felt very dumb after reading through the answers to some of the factual questions. Even though I was close to some of the other information, the wrong answers annoyed and frustrated me.

I really enjoyed our discussion about this last week

The questions toward the end about animal cruelty and racism still confuse me. Even after reading the explanations online I do not feel they are similar. I feel the same about the questions connecting littering and the environment to racism and privilege. I would agree that cars pollute the environment and are also a sign of privilege, but does that mean because I drive a car I am prejudiced? A lot of the explanations in the teacher site suggest after reading the book, students better understand this or that. I guess I have to read the book to fully understand some of these questions. It did say energy consumption and manufacturing hit minorities the hardest, but even that comment I don't completely understand. Is it that they are the ones working in the factories? Is it that they generally cannot afford to be wasteful of these amenities? I don't know.

hard question!

we should talk about this in class

After being frustrated with the baseline test and then getting no baseline, I went on to the racism test. Here I was nervous. It asked at the beginning if I considered myself racist. No. I was worried because what if this test found some hidden bias that even I was not consciously aware of? Maybe I am. Being a teacher I know one test is not the all-knowing, end-all decision, but I was still nervous about what this would say about me. Also, after having taken silly online

surveys or tests, I know they are not always scientifically based. This one, however, was different. It was not a 1-5 scale or do you agree or disagree with the following. I have never taken anything like this before. But again, with every wrong answer I got, I felt I was being put in the 'racist' category.

In the first part where you look at faces, again I thought it was a trick. You could actually determine the skin color just by looking. I felt maybe I was being racist because I was looking at the noses and lips of the people. I wondered why they wouldn't have more variety in the faces. Now I think this type of survey doesn't need to be tricky or confusing.

I was pleasantly surprised when my results came back as showing "little to no automatic preference between African American and European American". I was shocked to see that 48% of people had a "strong automatic preference for white people". I think it would be interesting to see a breakdown of those 48%. Are they predominantly white? Males? Middle-class? From the U.S? Even in the other categories, I wonder if any patterns would emerge. Mine shows little or no automatic preference. Who am I grouped with? I am only in a group of 12%.

Part of me was surprised at how different these numbers were and that the bias was still so prevalent. However, I know I live in a very small part of the country and in a very small part of the world. I know New Englanders are said to be not as welcoming or polite as people from other parts of the country but are we more accepting of differences in race, class, and the other 'differences' that Johnson mentions. Is the south still more prejudicial towards black people, gay people, etc? I think based on history we (as a region) may be more accepting of racial differences, but because of the strong religious history in New England maybe we are more prejudicial still against gay people, even though some of the states here have legalized gay marriage. I don't know. I wonder if I grew up in the south if my answers would be different. Or

Did any
work in
class
around
gradwell
any of
clarity
this?

if I grew up in a country had even fewer women in the workplace would my gender answers be different.

I took the gender test as well. I thought with this one I would show more of a bias. I think that in our society it is beginning to balance out, but there is still a long way to go. I also feel that women do have a stronger desire to want to start a family than men. Women have that ticking biological clock. I do not think it is as strong as it was thirty years ago, but I still think it is prevalent in our society. And yes, while we do see more women focusing on career first, I think for many the idea of a family is still lingering in the back of their minds.

Again, I was surprised when my result came back as “little or no association between female and male with career and family”. The numbers here were again a little surprising. And again I wonder what the breakdown of these percentages was. Do women connect themselves more to family than career? Or is it the men that lump women with family?

I am definitely interested to see what other people got for results. I have already sent this link to some of my friends at school. I think they would be interested to see their own hidden bias (if they have one) and also it could certainly be a jumping off point for discussion in some of their classes. I think, as Johnson suggests even about adults, the kids would feel uncomfortable at first about talking about, but at the same time this is the only way to fix it. I also think a lot of kids would not say their results if it said they showed a preference to black or white or if they connected women to family or men to career.