

Interviewing Five Different People From Different Races, Ages And Gender

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Race, Identity, and the Design of the Interview Study

I will be interviewing five different people from different races, ages, and gender. I will be asking how many races they think exist and to describe the first four that come to mind. Once I get my data I will compare all five answers and see how they are different and similar and look for any patterns. I will talk about my experience with racism and how going from a high school to a big university has an impact on race. Lastly, I will talk about racism in our country.

Dylan is a twenty-one-year-old White American. He was very confident and proud when I asked him these questions. Dylan said there are way too many races, but if he had to guess, it would be fifteen. Dylan immediately responded with American, Mexican, African, Chinese, and European. Trying to keep a straight face was so hard, but I managed. I asked him to describe the American race, and I got this. We are very smart and strong. We have a lot of pride and love to be proud of where we come from. Our characteristics are light-skinned and blonde most of the time; we have colored eyes and are somewhat tall. "What about the Mexican race?" Tacos. You guys make amazing tacos and have the best liquor. You guys can dance for days and party like there is no tomorrow. Y'all look the same: short, brown skin, brown eyes, brown hair. Just brown. He mentioned how religious and how we are very close to our family, very different from his race. When I asked about the African race, he was very slow and responding and was very careful with his words. Dylan completely changed. He first mentioned their music, which would be rap and how he listens to it all the time. When I asked about their characteristics he described them as tall, black, curly hair. He commented about how good they were at sports but did not really talk about the African race like he did with the others. Lastly, we talked about Europe. I was so interested in this description. He mentioned they had different accents but looked the same. They are from the old world and have almost the same food, music and looks. Dylan seemed confused and really needed time to think about their characteristics. Then commented that he had never met a European person, so he couldn't really describe them. My second person is Jordan. He is a 19-year-old African-American college student. He seemed not to care when I asked him these questions, he gave me very straight and blunt answers, very different from Dylan.

"We probably lost count of races." So, I asked him to name the first five that came to mind. African-American, Hispanic, White, and Asian-American. African Americans, obviously, are tall, have crazy hair, big lips and nose, and are well-black. Hispanics are short, most of them; everything about them is brown hair, skin, and eyes. They are really religious and close to family. When I asked about White,

he did a small smile with a giggle. They are something else; they are very political, love power and guns, and drink a lot, from what I have noticed. They are tall, not so slim once they hit twenty-four, blonde and very light-skinned. Jordan had a lot to say but asked for me not to write it in so I am leaving it at that. Lastly, Asian-American. Short small people who are very smart and make amazing food. Jordan started to let loose and began joking around. They are very smart, for one, they can be a lot of help, black hair, brown slanted eyes, and very heart warming people.

Bianca's Mexican American Identity and Educational Experience

I was so excited to ask Bianca these questions. Interviewing someone from my race and ethnicity was really interesting. Bianca is 26 years old Mexican-American. She had already graduated and is starting her Masters. She said there are only three races. Caucasian, Mongolian, and Negroid. I smiled and held back a laugh. I asked her to describe the characteristics and how they differ. Caucasians are white light skinned people, mainly from Europe. Mongolians are Chinese, Japanese, Eskimo and Indian. She also commented that it is the mid-light and brownish color skin that falls into this category. Lastly Negroid, African American. It was that simple of a response. I was very disappointed because I was really looking forward to hearing her describe our race, but I left it at that and moved on to my next interview. (Creswell & Poth, 2018)

Reshma was an open book. She is a twenty-six-year-old Indian woman. When I asked her about how many races there were, she said, "I personally believe there is only one race, the human race. But, if I need to answer with a number, I would say about seven.". I asked her to name four and describe their characteristics. She started off with her race, Indian. She said that they are very close to family and their religion. They love to dance, and they are very festive. Physically, they are brown everywhere and with big eyes. She commented that they were the Mexicans from the Old World. Secondly, Hispanic, she mentioned our tacos and burritos, just like Dylan. How we are very religious, and family matters so much to us. We are also brown everywhere, but we are short, so, not exactly have the same physical features. Our third race was American; she mentioned their characteristics first. Blonde-colored eyes, white-skinned, and tall. She mentioned how she noticed their love for politics and country music. She didn't have much to say about the white race. She just stayed quiet for a while. Lastly, she mentioned black and commented how they are

Thanks for rating! Rate 1 more document to earn a free unlock. Amazing at sports and dancing. She mentioned their characteristic at the end of all the racial comments: tall, black, thick hair, and muscular. Evelin has been a dear friend of mine and did the interview over FaceTime since she lives in Washington. Evelin is a nineteen-year-old Native Hispanic. Her father is Native American, and her mother is Hispanic. I asked her how many races she thinks we have, and she answered seven. I asked to mention the first four that came to mind, and they responded. Native American, Hispanic, White, and Black. She described Native American as a spiritual but cold-hearted type of people. They are old-

fashioned in their ways.

Physical Description, Cultural Stereotype, and the Language of Race

Physically describing them, she mentioned how they don't have body hair but have very long, thick hair on their heads and how they are marked toned with very bold faces. Hispanic people are fun and are full of life; religion and family are a big part of who we are, and also how amazing our food is. When I mentioned white people, she got a little serious and mentioned their physical features only: blonde, tall, and colored eyes. She also commented that she just stays away from them and doesn't feel comfortable talking to them. As soon as I mentioned Black, she went back to herself.

Talked about how they are all tall and have very unique hair, their amazing talents in sports and how they are very funny people. When I asked them to tell me four different races they all mentioned their own race first. When they described their race, it was very easy for them, and they seemed to have an easy time talking about it. One race they stayed awkward and a little intimidated was the White race. They mentioned the characteristics very similarly. They also talked about Hispanics and their tacos, religion, and family. They felt very comfortable talking about that race as if it was almost part of their race as well. Maybe they got very comfortable because they were in the Rio Grande Valley, and our ways got to them and became them.

They all had different numbers when I asked how many races they thought there were, from three to fifteen. They described African Americans very similarly as well. Something that really caught my attention was how Dylan was very careful and serious when I asked about this race. Jordan was somewhat uncomfortable and seemed scared to say what was on his mind but continued talking about it and commented how he would prefer for me not to put so much detail into his description. Bianca stood out the most in this interview. She was very different from everyone else and used her knowledge differently when I asked about race. It really took me by surprise to see how different she was, but she is older, is going for a higher degree and did not seem so comfortable with the questions. I have traveled to so many areas in the U.S. My family and I have driven to different towns, cities and states.

Mixed Heritage, Family Experience, and Encounters with Racism

We never faced racism. My mother is White, and my father is Mexican, so I am a mixed breed. We never got comments on our family mix. At least here in the U.S. My family and I drove to Mexico years ago. We went to visit my father's family for the first time there. On our way over there we stopped at a gas station to get gas, food, and do our business. When my mother was paying, they seemed mad

at him. My mother speaks Spanish but with an American accent. The cashier laughed and mocked her. My mother stayed calm, and when my Mexican father got to the register with us, the man oddly looked at us and stared, being nice. (Braun & Clarke, 2006) When we got to my grandma's house, my cousins would laugh and say that I had a weird, strong Texas accent and would mock the way I talked, so, for a week, I would stay quiet so they wouldn't hear my accent.

In high school, there were only seventy-three students in my graduating class. Every other class had less than ninety students. Living here in the valley, we are surrounded by Hispanics. In my very tiny school, we did not have many races; we only had one race. Facing racism is not common at all here in the valley. In college, you see a few people who are not from your race, but you do not feel awkward or uncomfortable around them. They are just people. Most people who are not from our race end up acting like they are because they are the only white person in a group of Mexicans or an Asian with a group of Mexicans. My encounter is different because now I am exposed to different races every day, but it has not affected me in any way. The most important thing that our country needs to do now about race is that there really aren't different races. We are all human, and dividing ourselves is really causing a problem, especially here in the U.S.

We all live here, so why can't we just be called American? We all immigrated to this country, so there are many races here, but in the end, we are American, despite our skin color, features, and main language. We should not be treated a certain way because of our race. Equality is why we love our country and we should continue practicing and make sure everyone understands what equality is. Race does not define who you are, just where you come from. We should explain to our youth how race does not mean anything. We should not label each other that way. We see race instead of seeing a human. Especially nowadays, with police brutality, we should really focus our attention on race and teach everyone race does not put you in a criminal topic. Children see past skin color and race until we teach them how to divide. It is truly heartbreaking, but over time, things will get better. We just need to focus on the problem our country is facing today. We need to let go of past racism and start a new, clean lifestyle.

Subject (note reaction)GenderAgeEthnicity# RacesNamesKey features1.Proud, awkward, scaredMale21AmericanWhiteDylan blonde, blue eyes, tall, light skinned. 2. uninterested, over it, scared but braveMale19African-AmericanBlack JordanThick hair, very tall, built, brown eyes.3. Blunt, very short, not interested at all, serious Female26Hispanic Mexican BiancaShort, brown eyes and hair, min-color skin.4. Interested outgoing,comfortable and enjoyed it.Female26Asian American Indian Reshma Short, brown eyes and slanted, light skin color. 5. Happy, then angry, proud, interested.Female19Native American / Hispanic Indian/Hispanic EvelinTa l l , t a n , brown eyes and hair, slim, don't have much body hair.

References

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