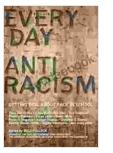
# **Everyday Antiracism: Getting Real About Race in School**



#### **Everyday Antiracism: Getting Real About Race in**

**School** by Mica Pollock

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Language	:	English
File size	:	1235 KB
Text-to-Speech	;	Enabled
Screen Reader	;	Supported
Enhanced typesetting	;	Enabled
Word Wise	;	Enabled
Print length	;	419 pages
Paperback	;	312 pages
Item Weight	;	1.61 pounds
Dimensions	:	8.5 x 0.71 x 11 inches



Racism is a complex and deep-rooted issue that has a profound impact on our society, including our schools. Everyday antiracism is a commitment to actively challenging and dismantling racism in all its forms, both individually and institutionally. It is about creating a more just and equitable world for all, regardless of race.

In schools, everyday antiracism means creating an environment where all students feel safe, respected, and valued. It means acknowledging and addressing racial bias, both in the curriculum and in the school culture. It means empowering students to be agents of change and to speak out against racism. Getting real about race in school can be challenging, but it is essential for creating a truly inclusive and equitable learning environment. Here are five steps that schools can take to get started:

#### 1. Acknowledge and address racial bias

The first step to combating racism is to acknowledge that it exists. This means being aware of our own biases and the biases that are embedded in our society. It also means being willing to talk about race openly and honestly.

Schools can create a safe space for students to talk about race by providing resources such as affinity groups, counselors, and anti-racism training. They can also incorporate anti-racism into the curriculum, teaching students about the history of racism and its impact on society.

### 2. Create an inclusive environment

All students deserve to feel safe, respected, and valued in school. This means creating an environment where all students feel like they belong. Schools can create an inclusive environment by:

- Using inclusive language and imagery in the classroom and throughout the school
- Providing opportunities for students to share their cultures and experiences
- Celebrating diversity and challenging stereotypes
- Creating a zero-tolerance policy for racism and other forms of discrimination

### 3. Empower students to be agents of change

Students can be powerful agents of change when it comes to fighting racism. Schools can empower students to speak out against racism by:

- Providing them with the knowledge and skills they need to understand and challenge racism
- Creating opportunities for them to take action against racism, such as organizing anti-racism events or starting a student-led anti-racism group
- Supporting them when they speak out against racism, even if it is uncomfortable

### 4. Hold ourselves accountable

Getting real about race in school requires all of us to hold ourselves accountable for our own actions and the actions of our institutions. This means being willing to listen to and learn from people of color, and to make changes when necessary.

Schools can hold themselves accountable by:

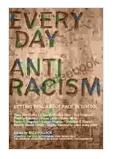
- Collecting data on racial disparities and using it to make informed decisions
- Creating and implementing policies and procedures that promote racial equity
- Providing ongoing training and support to staff on anti-racism

### 5. Be patient and persistent

Getting real about race in school is an ongoing process. It will take time and effort to create a truly inclusive and equitable learning environment. However, it is a journey that is worth taking. By working together, we can create a better future for all students.

Here are some additional resources on everyday antiracism in schools:

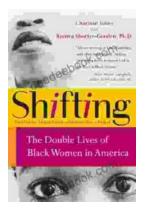
- Everyday Resistance to Racism, Teaching Tolerance
- 7 Ways Teachers Can Promote Racial Equity in Their Classrooms, Edutopia
- 45 Ways to Promote Racial Equity in School, NAACP



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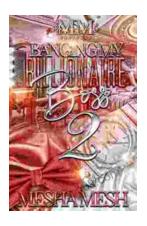
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