

Discussion Questions

1. Before you read this chapter, were you aware that slavery still exists throughout the world? If yes, describe how you learned about it and your reaction to this fact. If not, think about *how* your social privilege led to your learning about it for the first time in this course.
2. Have you ever experienced being stereotyped because of your race or ethnicity? Why or why not? How can racial stereotypes harm societies, as well as groups and individuals?
3. What is the difference between symbolic racism and ideological racism? Why is it so difficult to recognize and address symbolic racism in the United States today?
4. Give two examples, respectively, of both side-effect discrimination and past-in-present discrimination. How have they impacted you and your life chances? Why?
5. We know that efforts to reduce prejudice, racism, and discrimination must take place at all levels (micro, meso, and macro). Most organizations, though, must choose one level on which to focus their particular efforts. If you were going to start an organization to decrease racial or ethnic prejudice, would you focus on the micro, meso, or macro level? Why? Explain what your organization would do.
6. Do you agree with the Supreme Court ruling that upheld preferences for college applicants at the University of Michigan who were scholarship athletes or the sons or daughters of a large donor or a politician, but not for racial or ethnic minorities? Why or why not? How might each type of preference benefit (a) the university and (b) the larger society?