



***How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi**

“In a racist society it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist.” – Angela Davis.

Kendi’s book central message is that the opposite of “racist” isn’t “not racist.” The true opposite of “racist” is *antiracist*.

Book Club Discussion Questions

We will be discuss the following three questions in our virtual book club group.

1. In *How to be an Antiracist*, Kendi shares his own experience with racist thinking. How does his honesty help give us space to acknowledge and name our own racist behaviors and attitudes?
2. Kendi writes, “The only way to undo racism is to constantly identify it and describe it—and then dismantle it.” Why does he believe we need to call out racism when we see it, even if it is uncomfortable to call it out?
3. What steps have you taken or will you take in striving to be antiracist?

Contemplative Reading Questions

4. What does it mean to you to be antiracist?
5. Kendi describes race as a social construct—and emphasizes that it is not a biological construct. In other words, there is no biological basis for “race.” What are your thoughts about this?
6. What are your thoughts about the claim of “color blindness” that *I don’t see color, I don’t see race, so I treat everyone the same*?
7. What are your thoughts about Kendi’s argument that Black and Brown people, like White people, can be racist?
8. Kendi thinks that we should assess candidates as being racist or antiracist based on what ideas they are expressing and what policies they are supporting—and not what they say is in their bones or their heart. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?



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ALUMNI OFFICE

900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601

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9. Kendi closes the book comparing racism and cancer. What do you think of this comparison?

 10. Kendi believes we can defy the odds, heal society of racism, and create an antiracist society. Do you? Why is hope so central to the antiracist movement?