

## SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR the value of Ethnic Studies.

1. What do you consider your (individual, family, community, group, etc.) 'history? Why is this history important to you? What roles does it play in your present life?
2. What have been your experiences with 'ethnic studies' classes?
3. Is there an "American history or World history" canon that should be taught in all public high schools? If so, what goes into it? Who might be missing from this canon?
4. Who is at the center of focus in an ethnic studies class? How is it different than a "regular" history class? What is the value of an ethnic studies class?
5. What are the benefits of studying the complexities of culture, politics, and history? (Think about both students of color and for white students.) What are the drawbacks?
6. Who owns history?
7. Brainstorm some current attitudes, programs, or policies on teaching history that leave out diverse perspectives.
8. Talk about what it might look like in a history class to study the meeting places of Western and indigenous histories – Where these histories connect, and where they deviate.
9. What can you do in your work to ensure all perspectives are represented?

*Need support facilitating discussion around equity and cultural competency? Contact ReachOut for more information about our services and resources: [info@reachoutfornewfutures.org](mailto:info@reachoutfornewfutures.org).*

Web Article: **Los Angeles Times**. *Arizona bill targeting ethnic studies signed into law.*

Web Address: <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/may/12/nation/la-na-ethnic-studies-20100512>

Web Article: **Indian Country Today**. *Language and ethnic studies bans are educators' concerns.*

Web Address: <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com/national/midwest/95860554.html>

Web Article: **Time**. *Why Did Arizona pass an Ethnic Studies Bill?*

Web Address: <http://newsfeed.time.com/2010/05/14/why-did-arizona-pass-an-ethnic-studies-bill/>

Web Article: **Colorlines**. *Ethnic studies is broadening, Arizona be damned.*

Web Address: <http://www.colorlines.com/article.php?ID=728&p=1>

Web Article: **San Francisco Examiner**. *Ethnic Studies seen as smart move despite deficit.*

Web Address: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Ethnic-studies-seen-as-smart-move-despite-deficit-85167247.html>