

Rachel Laser: Workshops

All of my workshops are dynamic, participatory, positive and community-building. I tailor them to the specific entity I am working with through research about the industry and also interviews with staff members. The workshops use the thinking of leading experts, videos, studies and my own introspection to help guide and encourage participants in their learning. Participants leave with a shared understanding of key terms, a deeper understanding of the obstacles standing in the way of inclusion and some concrete ideas for next steps.



Implicit Bias Workshop This workshop explores your workplace values and their connection to the goals of diversity, equity and inclusion. It allow people to value their own and others' multicultural identities and also uncovers the power dynamics that attach to differences. It then examines implicit bias--how it operates, where it stems from and how it undermines our values outside of our consciousness. The workshop concludes by exploring concrete ideas to create a culture of greater inclusion.

Let's Talk about Race Workshop This workshop educates and fosters open conversation about racism and privilege. It explores these loaded concepts and their historical context and helps participants better understand the role that race plays in shaping our thinking and behavior. The workshop runs well no matter what audience, but it has been especially effective when people of color and white people are participating together.

Some Past Training Locations Include:

- Holy Trinity School, Washington DC
- Alice Deal Middle School, Washington DC
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- NARAL Pro-Choice America National Board
- University of Maryland Sociology Class
- Woodrow Wilson High School Diversity Task Force

Testimonial from Attendees:

- **Kevin McShane, Assistant Principal Holy Trinity School:** “Rachel led our group through an engaging and dynamic workshop in a difficult Friday afternoon timeslot. Her preparation and knowledge were first rate. She tailored her presentation to include our school's mission and our hopes for our graduates. At the same time, she made it a safe place for people to share their feelings on emotional issues. By sharing resources and allowing us to consider our own feelings on the issue, she helped us leave the room eager to learn more and more importantly to do more to support one another, our students, our community, and the world.”
- **Diedre L. Neal, Assistant Principal Alice Deal Middle School:** “Deal is an extremely diverse public middle school in Washington, DC. Although most of our students are academically successful, an achievement gap is still obvious. We were delighted to invite Rachel Laser to participate in our efforts to build a school community where all students, faculty, and parents feel valued and respected.

Ms. Laser's The Privilege Behind Perspective: Let's Talk About Race workshop was eye opening and also community building. The workshop helped our staff appreciate how much they might not be seeing in terms of racial dynamics that play out daily in our school and in their daily lives and led to important discussions about where we need to shine a light and develop better structures. It also created a welcoming space for our staff of color to share their own experience of race with our white staff and for our white staff to share their feelings about privilege and racism. At the end of the session, many of our staff chose the word "connected" to describe their feelings. I highly recommend this workshop for any school working on addressing issues of race and privilege.”
- **Dr. Yan Yu, Professor University of Maryland:** “Rachel Laser taught “White Privilege” to my University of Maryland classes in the Spring and Fall semesters in 2016 ('Inequality in America' and 'Introduction to Contemporary Social Problems'). Each time she gave a presentation and then led the class in lively discussion. The students found her talks eye-opening and she skillfully bridged the gap between opposing sides on divisive issues. She is invited to teach my future classes and I recommend her highly.”