

DOES DONATING MONEY ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY?

THIS ACTIVITY SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 90 MINUTES. IF LEARNERS ARE ABLE TO REVIEW MEDIA PRIOR TO THE LESSON, ACTIVITY TIME SHOULD BE 45 TO 60 MINUTES.

INVESTIGATE

Read, watch, and listen to the three media resources on the Thinkalong module. Learners can use the Investigate graphic organizer to summarize each piece of media and record new information. Below are summaries of the three pieces of media curated in the Thinkalong module.

BIG TALK FROM BIG TECH ON RACIAL EQUITY, BUT NOT ALL WORKERS ARE BUYING IT

NPR | June 19, 2020 | Audio

3:16 minutes

Big tech companies, like Apple, Google, Amazon, and Facebook, are making large donations to anti-racist organizations, but some Black workers say public statements and big checks are not going to lead to true racial equity.

- Some Black workers say the companies need to engage in true diversity, equity, and inclusion – and it takes more than just “positive words and dollar signs.”
- Black workers comprise a very small percentage of the workforce in Big Tech and many feel the tech culture can be exclusionary.
- Despite criticism, the public statements and monetary investment means that these companies can now be held accountable for the changes they say they are committed to making.

THE MINNESOTA FREEDOM FUND RAISES DONATIONS TO BAIL OUT PROTESTERS

Marketplace | June 1, 2020 | Audio

2:02 minutes

Following the killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 and the protests that followed, The Minnesota Freedom Fund has received increased attention and donations to use for help with bail and legal costs.

- The MFF is a grassroots nonprofit group that helps pay bail for people who cannot afford it – people who tend to be disproportionately low-income or people of color.
- Many groups have argued that the practice of imposing cash bail is inequitable because those who cannot afford to pay will not be released from jail while those who can are released.
- Some critics caution that donors may not know exactly who is benefitting from their donations.

BLACK LIVES MATTER NETWORK ESTABLISHES \$12M GRANT FUND

MPR | June 17, 2020 | Article

945 words

The Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation reported that they have received more than 1.1M individual donations since the killing of George Floyd. These funds will allow them to support more organizations around the country doing racial justice work.

- While BLM has struggled in the past with funds, it will now be able to spread resources throughout its affiliate chapters in order to “reverse centuries of disinvestment in black communities.”
- The fund will allow more than a dozen local chapters to support legal aid, communication, and education initiatives.
- The BLM Global Network Foundation will also provide financial support to non-BLM global movement organizations.
- Since its inception the BLM Global Network Foundation has faced questions about transparency as well as confusion with a California-based organization called the Black Lives Matter Foundation.

KEY WORDS

Look out for these important keywords in the news stories. Discuss the definitions with your learners and see how they affect the understanding of the story.

- Grassroots
- Foundation
- Bail
- Transparency

CONTEMPLATE

Learners will use media literacy questions to critically engage with news by thinking about its purpose, searching for bias and discussing missing perspectives. They will answer the 5 Key Questions of Media Literacy created by the Center for Media Literacy, which are:

1. Who created this message?
2. What creative techniques are used to attract my attention?
3. How might different people understand this message differently than me?
4. What values, lifestyles and points of view are represented in, or omitted from, this message?
5. Why is this message being sent?

A graphic organizer is included in this guide and the Thinkalong website to help learners answer these five questions about each piece of media.

DEBATE

Use the debate tool on the module webpage to help form evidence-based responses to the debate question.

Thinkalong is designed to help learners engage with real issues that are relevant to their lives. [Structured discussions](#) allow learners to practice their critical thinking skills through evidence-based debate with their peers. Discussions are designed to take about 30 minutes. Educators are encouraged to modify aspects that work best for their learners.

To encourage civil discourse, please review the [Code of Conduct](#) with your learners.

Using public media — video, audio and digital reports — about newsworthy topics, these classroom-based exercises help learners to think critically about media messages, develop informed opinions, and practice how to take a stand.