

Is this Who We Are?

Doom Days: Bastille

When I watch the world burn all I think about is you
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There must be something in the Kool-Aid
Cruising through the doom days
God knows what is real and what is fake
Last couple years have been a mad trip
How'd you look so perfect?
You must have some portraits in the attic
We'll stay offline so no-one gets hurt
Hiding from the real world
Just don't read the comments ever, ever
We f*cked this house up like the planet
We were running riot
Crazy that some people still deny it
Think I'm addicted to my phone
My scrolling horror show
I'm live streaming the final days of Rome
One tap along its pornographic
Everybody's at it
No surprise we're so easily bored
Let's pick the truth that we believe in

Like a bad religion
Tell me all your original sins
So many questionable choices
We love the sound that our voice makes
Man, this echo chamber's getting loud
We're gonna choose the blue pill
We're gonna close the curtains
We're gonna rabbit hole down third act love now
She's gonna flip some tables
I'm gonna move this tale on
We're gonna rabbit hole down third act love now
We'll be the proud remainers
Here till the morning breaks us
We run away from real life thoughts tonight
We are gonna Peter Pan out
Fade to the close up, arms round
We're gonna stay naive tonight, night, night
When I watch the world burn all I think about is you
When I watch the world burn all I think about is you
You, all think about is you
So I put my phone down, fall into the night with you

Analysis

Guiding Questions

The past few years have brought some very difficult current events, many of them racial in nature. A distinct rise in hate crimes, police killings of blacks, and the proliferation of white supremacy groups. The guiding questions for today are this.

- *Is this Who We Are or have the last few years been an aberration or step back in our march forward toward a more perfect union?*
- *If this is who we are, then what can we do at Saratoga High to guide the nation back toward a more just future?*
- *Where are we personally on the racist-Anti-Racist continuum? Can we change?*

Key Terms:

Antiracism “the policy or practice of opposing racism and promoting racial tolerance.”

Feminism “the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes.”

Racism “prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.”

White Privilege “inherent advantages possessed by a white person on the basis of their race in a society characterized by racial inequality and injustice.”

Xenophobia “a deeply rooted prejudice and suspicion of foreign cultures, religions, and ethnic groups.”

Recent Statements on race made by politicians

“Criminal aliens are filling the jails of this country. Feeble-minded and insane foreigners are cluttering our... asylums, all at the expense of American taxpayers. I wish to say that if I had my way... I would today build a wall about the United States so high and so secure that not a single alien or foreign refugee from any country upon the face of this earth could possibly scale or ascend it.”

“When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best. They’re not sending you.... They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

“Even though those thousands of people that were marching to the Capitol were trying to pressure people like me to vote the way they wanted me to vote, I knew those were people that love this country, that truly respect law enforcement, would never do anything to break the law, and so I wasn't concerned. Now, had the tables been turned -- Joe, this could get me in trouble -- had the tables been turned, and President Trump won the election and those were tens of thousands of Black Lives Matter and Antifa protesters, I might have been a little concerned.”

“We believe in justice. There’s old sayings in Texas about find all the rope in Texas and get a tall oak tree,” he said before the House Judiciary Committee. “You know, we take justice very seriously, and we ought to do that. Round up the bad guys. That’s what we believe.”

Things You’ve heard said at Saratoga High School



	Historical Issues	Recent Developments
Black Inequality & Structural Racism		
Anti-Asian Hate Crimes		

Capitol Riots

“The mob attacks on the Capitol are not so much “unprecedented” as they are consistent with America’s history of white backlash to racial equality and white entitlement to political, economic, and social control. It is not a coincidence that on the same day of the riot, the first Black and Jewish Americans were elected to Senate seats in Georgia. Wednesday’s violence claims no legitimate grievances. It is merely the perpetual retaliation to racial progress, as evidenced by the insurrectionists’ parading of Trump flags, Confederate flags, Gadsden flags, Blue Lives Matter flags, and Neo-Nazi symbols. This was not an uprising against a tyrannical government; it was an uprising against a multicultural government. And the police reaction—calm, measured, tolerant—to that uprising suggests that when it comes to engaging in violence against the state, white perpetrators have nothing to lose.”

-Kellie Carter Jackson, “The Inaction of Capitol Police Was by Design,” *The Atlantic*, January 8, 2021.

Among the more common initial reactions to the disgraceful mob assault on the United States Capitol on Jan. 6 has been the notion that it was unprecedented and out of keeping with American values and the American experience. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy claimed that what he saw was “un-American.” One of his Republican colleagues, Tom Cole of Oklahoma, asserted that the behavior of the assailants was “not the American way,” while another, Nancy Mace of South Carolina, said that it was “not who we are.” On CNN, commentator Van Jones said he thought events looked “more like Syria than the United States of America.” And they are wrong.

For decades after Reconstruction, white mobs carried out lynchings in broad daylight before crowds of thousands, often under the auspices of local authorities. In 1898, white supremacists engineered a coup to overthrow the city government of Wilmington, North Carolina. They murdered Black residents, burned large sections of Black neighborhoods and read a “White Declaration of Independence” at a mass meeting led by a former congressman. -Black pogroms in Rosewood, Florida, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, where city officials and the police colluded with the riot-ers. Between the 1940s and 1970s, white mobs in Chicago, Boston, Little Rock, New Orleans and scores of other cities and towns across the country besieged Black communities. A narrative of American history providing a thorough accounting of both the regularity of that violence and the consistent aims for which it has been put to use would obviously look quite differ-ent. It would not be as uplifting, as self-flattering or as comforting as a history in which such violence is understood as “un-American.”

Yet it would be both more honest and more useful. We need not understand American his-tory as nothing but an endless litany of riots and outrages. But we leave ourselves unprepared and in position to be “surprised” over and over again when we do not recognize that events like the at-tempted insurrection of Jan. 6 are very much part and parcel of our country’s past and its present.

- **Joshua D. Rothman**
Notes:

Conclusion:

	Answers
Is what was happened in America on Jan 6 “who we are?” Why or why not?	
How can we at SHS combat hate & structural racism?	
Are you racist? How do you assess your own bias?	

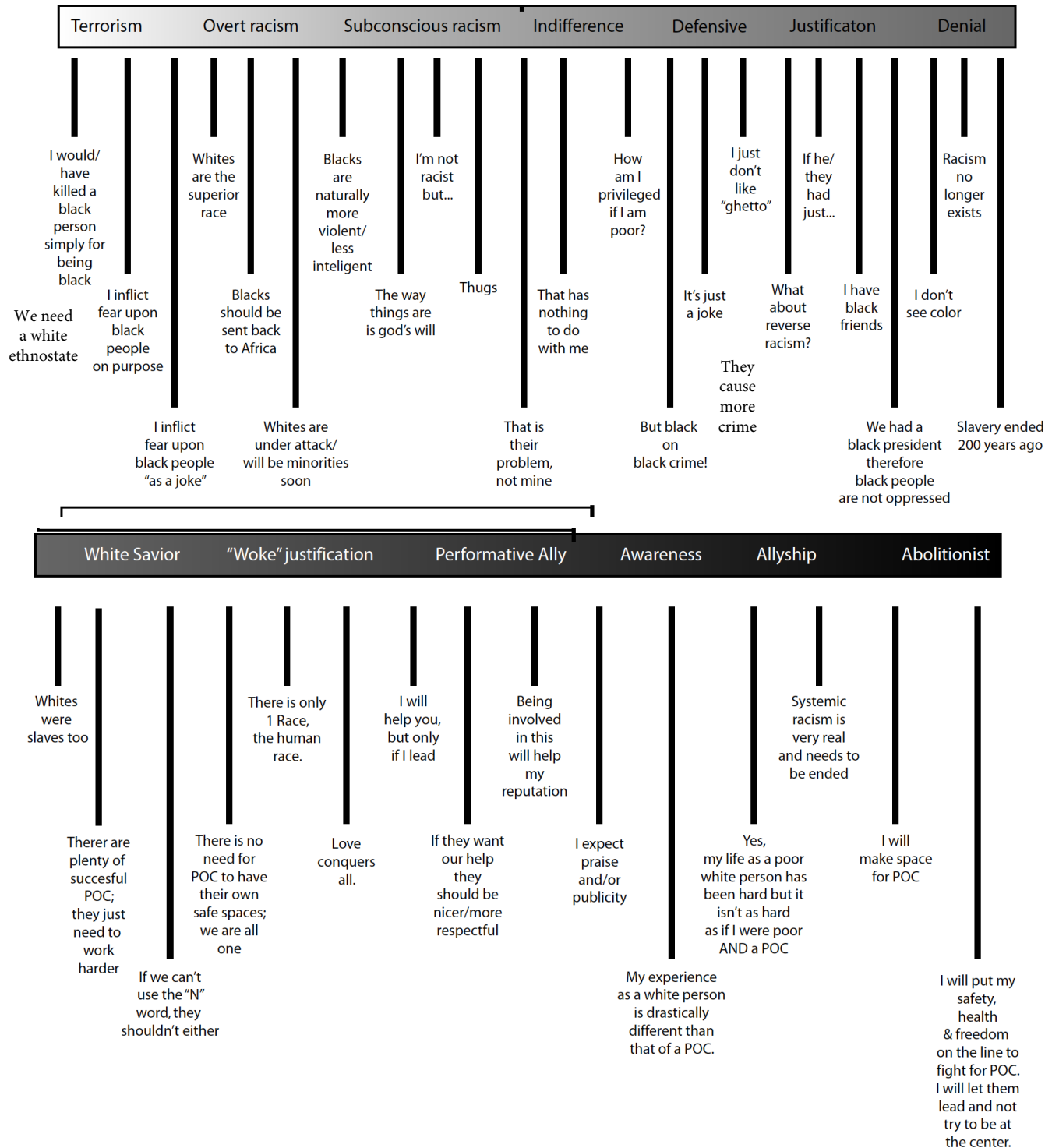
Racist = Bad
Ignorant
Bigoted
Prejudiced
Mean-spirited
Old
Southern

Not Racist=Good
Progressive
Educated
Open-minded
Well-intentioned
Young
Northern

“While making racism bad seems like a positive change, we have to look at how this functions in practice. Within this paradigm, to suggest that I am racist is to deliver a deep moral blow—a kind of character assassination. Having received this blow, I must defend my character, and that is where all my energy will go—to deflecting the charge, rather than reflecting on my behavior. In this way, the good/bad binary makes it nearly impossible to talk to white people about racism, what it is, how it shapes all of us, and the inevitable ways that we are conditioned to participate in it. If we cannot discuss these dynamics or see ourselves within them, we cannot stop participating in racism. The good/bad binary made it effectively impossible for the average white person to understand—much less interrupt—racism.”

(White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism by Robin Diangelo)

Look at the scale



Where do you think you fit on this scale? Do you think this changes over time?