# When Colorblindness Isn't The Answer—A Discussion Guide

Anthony Pinn's new book, *When Colorblindness Isn't The Answer: Humanism and the Challenge of Race* (order your copy today at <u>Pitchstone Publishing</u> or <u>Amazon</u>), provides an instructive manual for humanists seeking to bridge the gap between humanist theory and praxis when it comes to racial justice.

The American Humanist Association affirms and celebrates humanism's commitment to social justice advocacy by promoting this important work exploring racism, one of the defining biases of society. This discussion guide was created to encourage deeper engagement with the book's humanist-centered ideas intended to develop a more race conscious humanist community.

Racism demands attention. The content and scope of life in the United States depend in significant ways on how the ongoing challenge of racism is addressed. We hope that you join us as we seek to more directly tie our progressive life philosophy with racial justice.

## **Chapter Discussion Suggestions**

### Chapter 1

- Why hasn't humanism proven a more compelling alternative to theism for African-Americans, American Indians, Latinos/as, and so on?
- What might humanism do (as far as community building and ritualizing the mundane) to make it more appealing and more competitive with theistic organizations?
- What would incorporating one of these ideas into your own community's life look like?

#### Chapter 2

- How can we employ critical thinking to be more cognizant of, and think more deeply about, systemic racism?
- What can humanists do to lessen racial injustice both inside and outside the "movement?"

### Chapter 3

- Did this chapter provide you with information about humanist traditions you were previously unaware of before reading? If so, please share what you learned.
- ↔ Which examples of humanism in the African American or Latinx experience particularly speak to you?
- How could you incorporate work by thinkers and writers from these communities into your own community's life?

### Chapter 4

- What are your takeaways from this chapter regarding privilege in general and white privilege specifically?
- Take time to review and discuss each step Pinn provides to tackle white privilege. Which steps are your community already engaged in doing? For the steps your community isn't yet engaged in--what would participation look like?

### Chapter 5

- Take time to review and discuss each step Pinn provides regarding increasing racial knowledge. Include in your discussion the following questions:
  - What materials have you engaged that have helped you to learn more about racism, white privilege, and white supremacy?
  - How could you bring these materials to your community?
  - How has Pinn's framing of difference impacted your thinking about both the idea of difference and issues related to difference?

#### Chapter 6

- How has Pinn's framing of difference impacted your thinking about both the idea of difference and issues related to difference?
- Discuss positive experiences you've had with difference in your life--either as someone who is different or as someone who encounters difference?
- How could your community move forward on the steps that Pinn describes around welcoming difference?

### Chapter 7

- What intrigued you about Pinn's description of hip hop culture?
- Discuss "thick diversity" by giving examples of "performative diversity" and providing suggestions for how to both challenge it and replace it with more genuine attempts at inclusion.
- How could you imagine bringing hip hop culture--or another art form--to your community?

#### Chapter 8

- What are some ideas you have for making racial justice more of a priority for yourself and for your humanist community?
- Discuss your thoughts to Pinn's question: Where do we go from here? (e.g., further self and group education, seeking ways to create more inclusive leadership and other deep involvement, working on allyship/solidarity opportunities, etc.)

### **Continue the Discussion**

Don't let the conversation end here! The following are resources that will help stimulate further contemplation, learning, and dialogue about matters of race and racism.

Dear White Progressives, *The Humanist* (goo.gl/2uGQmE)

Finding Myself In The Story of Race, Tedx Fenway (goo.gl/W7RT9r)

When you say you 'don't see race', you're ignoring racism, not helping to solve it, The Guardian (goo.gl/mc92kC)

Multicultural Expert Discusses Race Consciousness, State of Opportunity (goo.gl/WXo68E)

Colorblindness Is Counterproductive, The Atlantic (goo.gl/kmKCeL)

No, I Won't Stop Saying White Supremacy, The Good Men Project (goo.gl/CqQhfP)