

Race-based Affinity Group Video

Presented to Elementary students

What You Should Know

This video was presented to elementary students *without informing parents*. **Some students came home from school and asked their parents why kids were going to be separated by skin color at school. Understandably parents were confused and alarmed.**

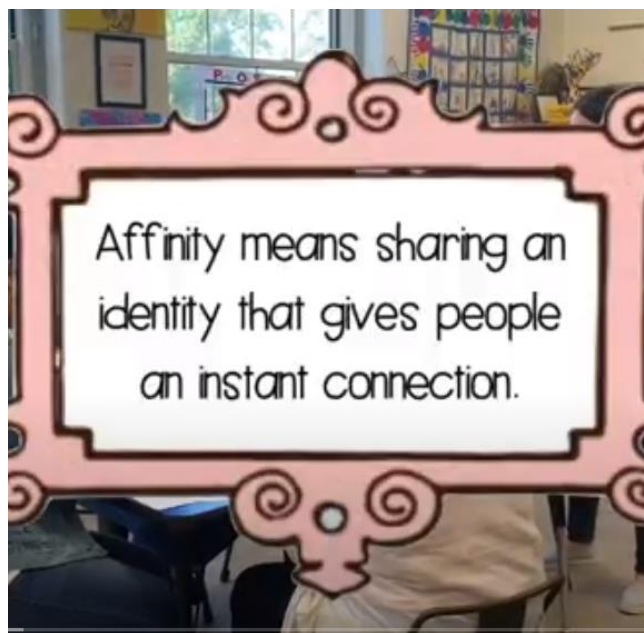
The school did not want to share the video and told parents they could come watch it at school with one of their facilitators.

A [Sunshine Law](#) request had to be submitted in order for the video to be released.

Why are parents having to go through legal action to have access to what their children are learning & experiencing at school?

And why did the school not provide the opportunity for parents to view this video prior to their children watching it? It introduces sensitive topics that parents have a right to navigate with their children.

Samples of content from the video:



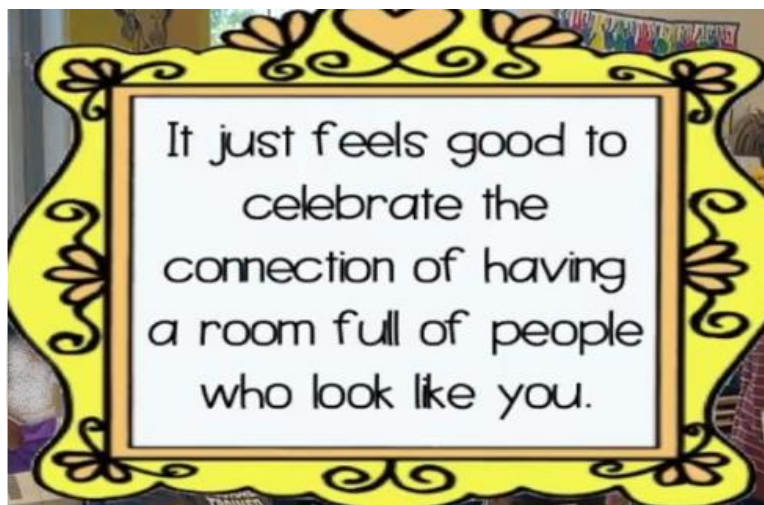
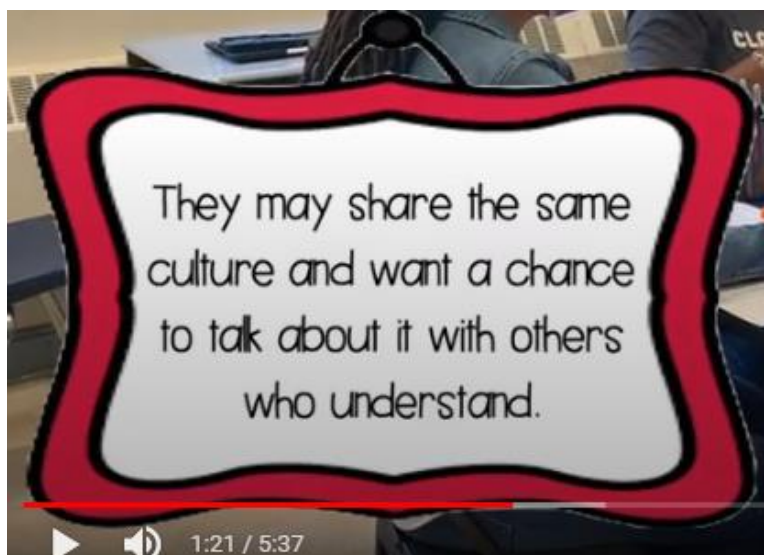
“But don’t people have lots of different identities that make up who they are?”

How do you know what affinity to focus on?”



"The affinity group we are having right now at {school name} is around race."

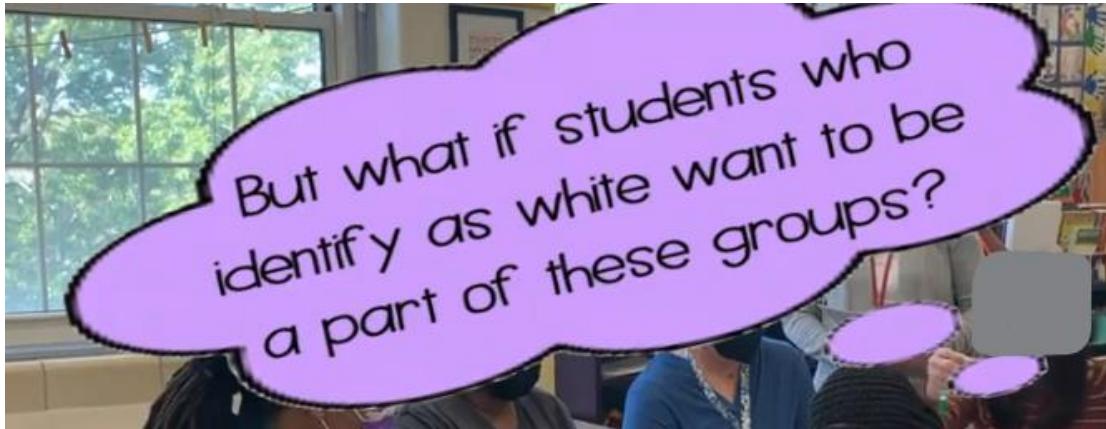
"So it sounds like you want to have a group where people who share the same racial identity can come together."



“Making signs is a great way for our ‘white allies’ to support our affinity group. Allies can do all sorts of things to make the group successful.”

...

“I want all the black and bi-racial kids to know that I support them, too, but they need that from a teacher who shares their affinity first.”



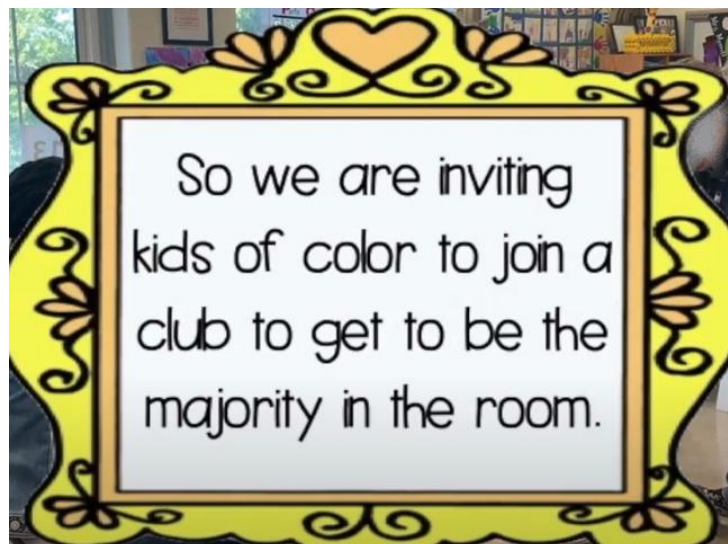
“... sometimes we may have what’s called an open affinity group. An open affinity group is when everyone wants to learn more about what it’s like to be a racial minority. Or, anybody who wants to be an ally of kids of color can attend.”

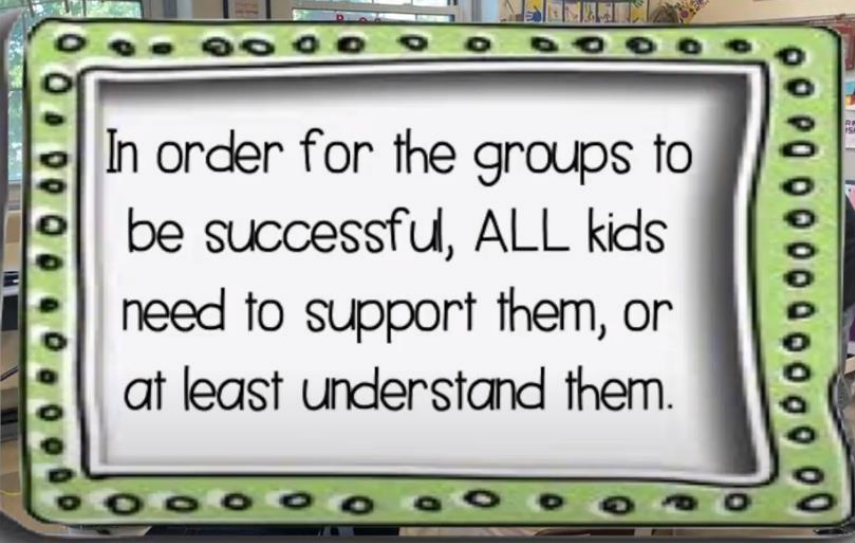
“But most of the time it will be for kids who identify as black or bi-racial.”

“It is important for white kids to understand. They spend most of their days in the majority in the room. They don’t usually think about race because most of the people around them share their racial identity.”

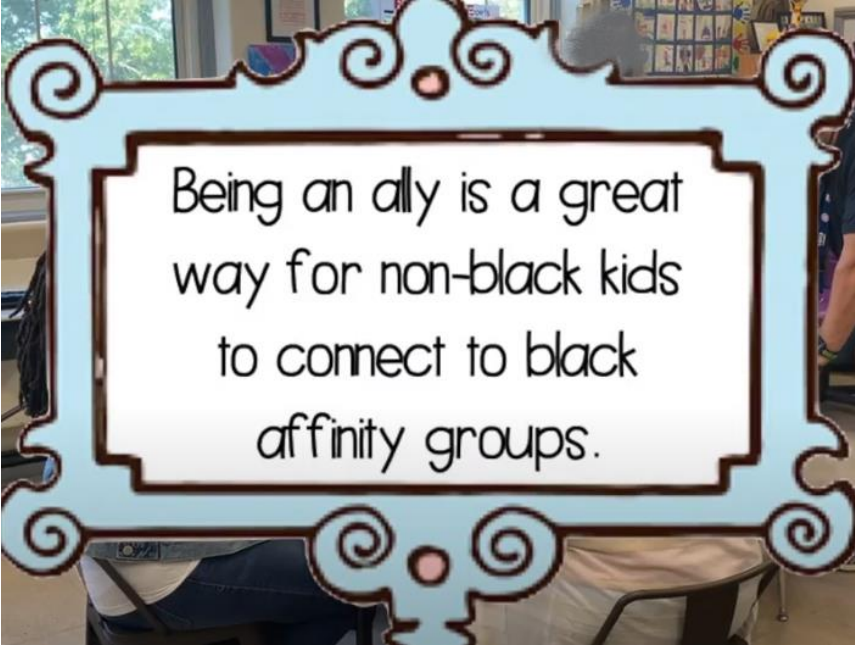
“Why does it matter if some races are the majority and some are the minority?”

“Well, it doesn’t matter all the time but sometimes it can be hard to always be the racial minority...”

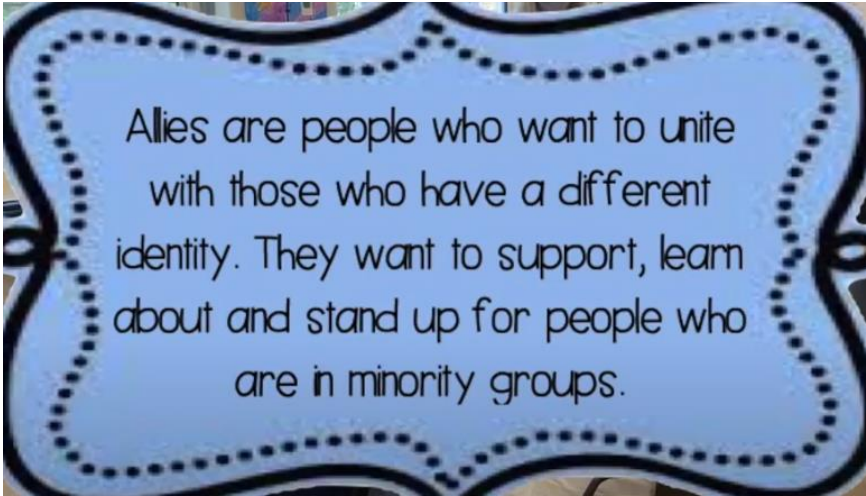




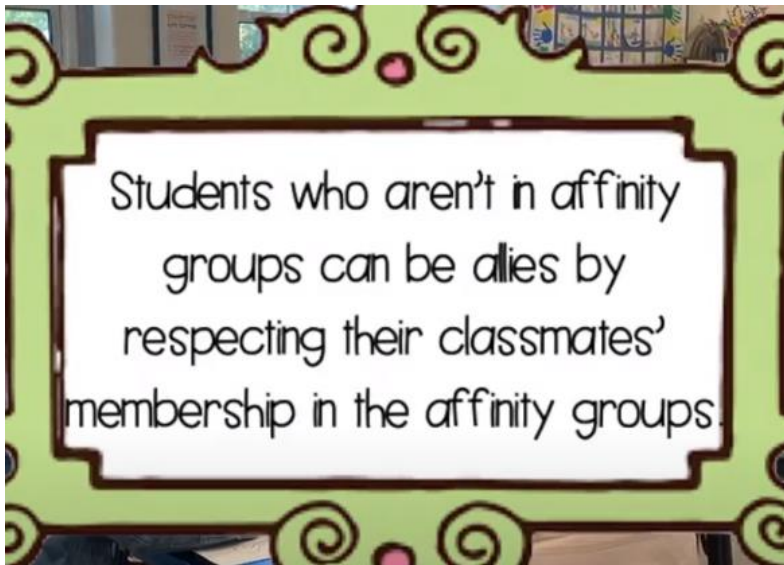
In order for the groups to be successful, ALL kids need to support them, or at least understand them.



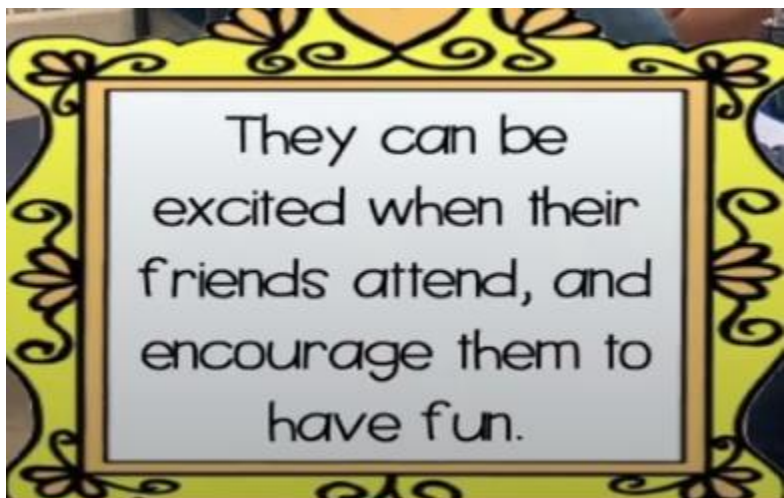
Being an ally is a great way for non-black kids to connect to black affinity groups.



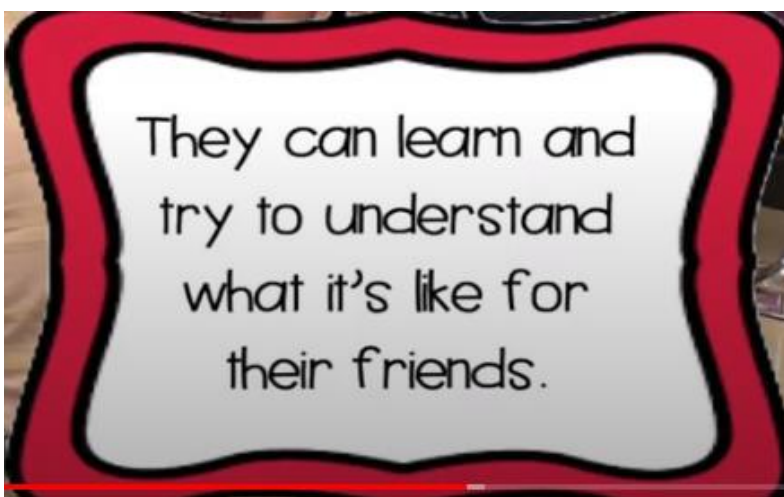
Allies are people who want to unite with those who have a different identity. They want to support, learn about and stand up for people who are in minority groups.



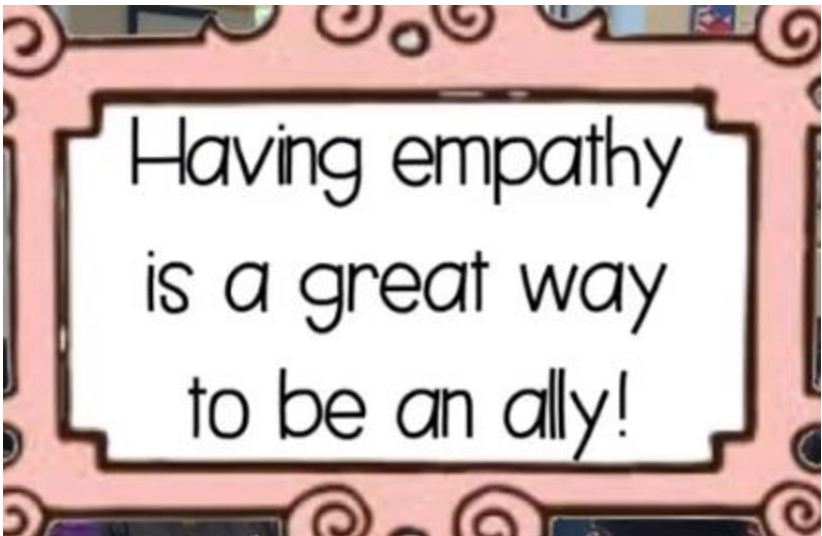
Students who aren't in affinity groups can be allies by respecting their classmates' membership in the affinity groups.



They can be excited when their friends attend, and encourage them to have fun.



They can learn and try to understand what it's like for their friends.



Having empathy
is a great way
to be an ally!

**Thanks for watching.
Please ask your teacher
if you have any questions.**