

A decorative graphic featuring various colored circles (teal, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink) and dashed lines of different colors (teal, yellow, green) arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

The Dangers of “Performative Wokeness”

Summer Forum Series #2: July 17, 2020

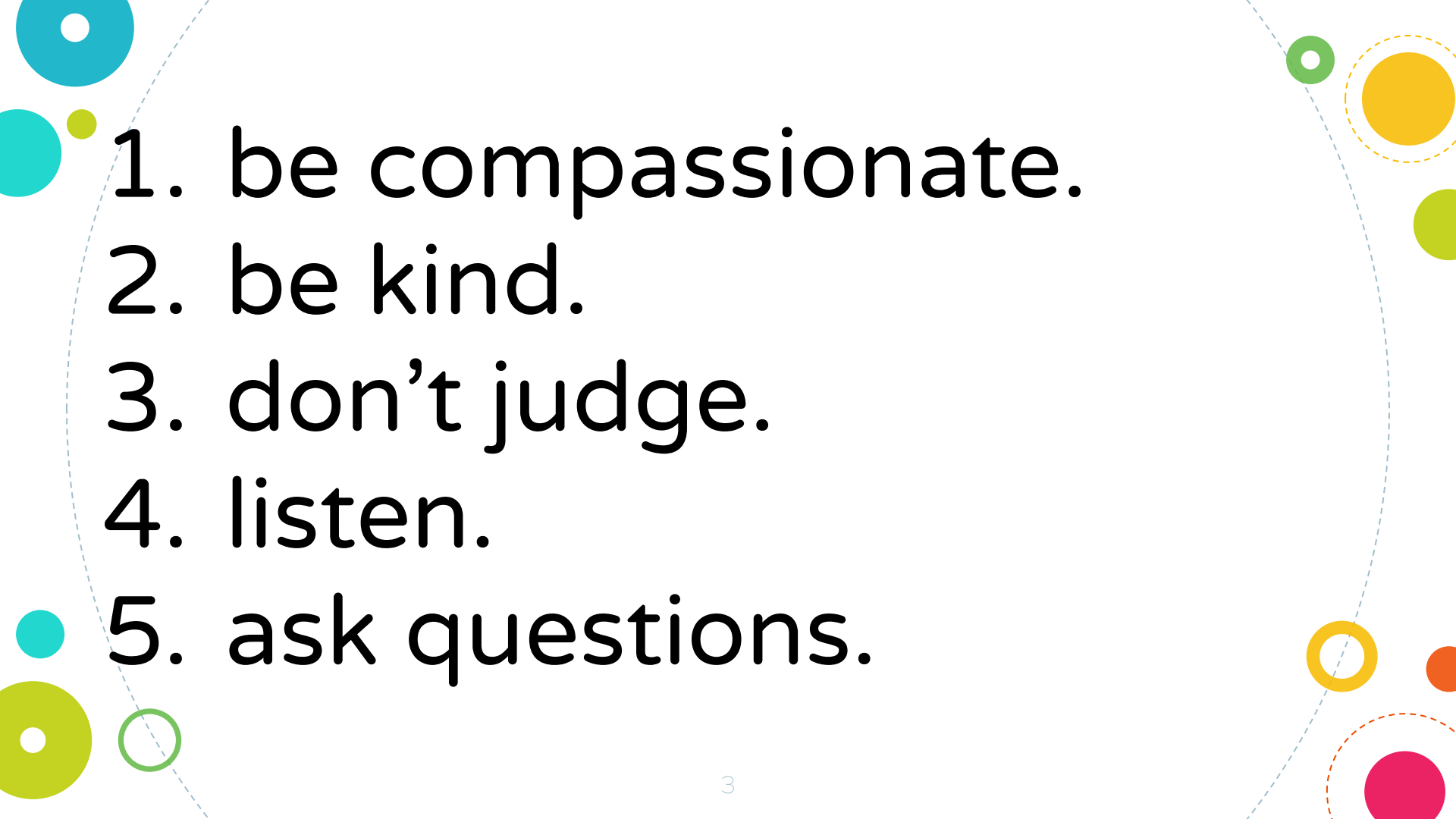
Summer Forum Series

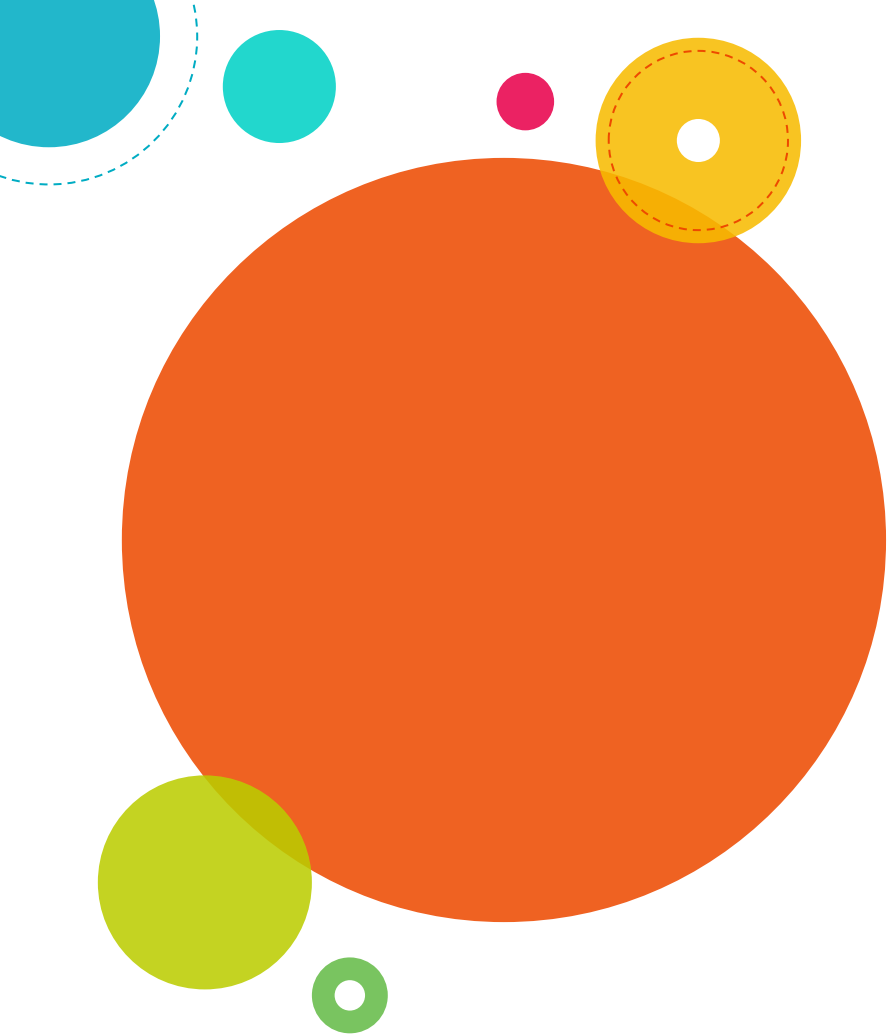
OBJECTIVES

1. To learn
2. To generate meaningful discourse
3. To become actively anti-racist in our daily lives.

NORMS

1. Don't be afraid to be raggedy! You don't need to have perfect phrasing; just be authentic.
2. Be sensitive to the experience of others.
3. Speak from the "I" perspective.
4. What happens in this chat stays in this chat.
5. Do not record or take screenshots of the video.

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- A decorative graphic consisting of a large, light blue dashed circle that frames the text. Various colored circles (solid and hollow) in shades of teal, yellow, green, orange, and pink are scattered around the perimeter of the dashed circle.
1. be compassionate.
 2. be kind.
 3. don't judge.
 4. listen.
 5. ask questions.



VIDEO

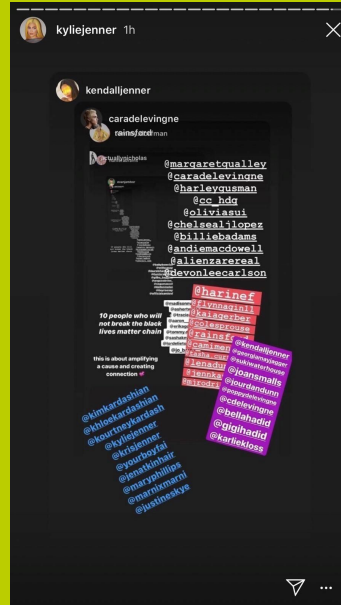
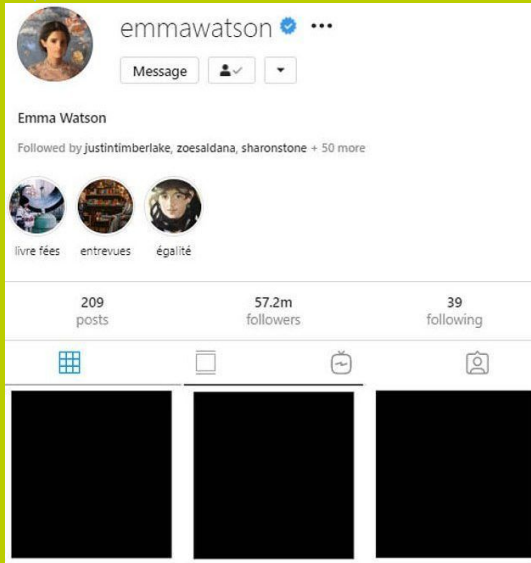


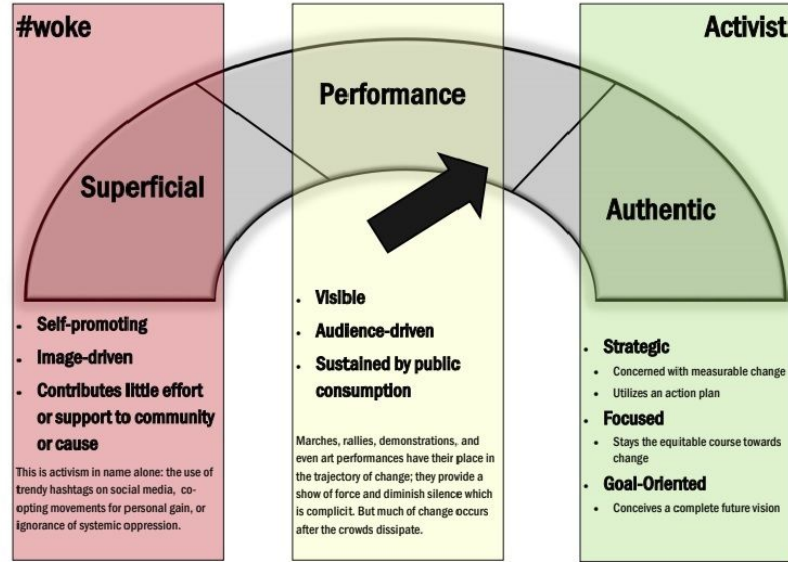


Defining Performative Activism

1. What is performative activism?
2. Can performative activism be beneficial?
3. When is performative activism harmful?

EXAMPLES OF PERFORMATIVE ACTIVISM





Scale of Effective Activism

What drives their social concern?

Joining the upsurge.

Ending the silence.
Silence is complicit.

Being a crucial part of
a more just society.

What have they done for the cause?

Used a hashtag.

Hosted a rest stop for a March.

Enacted new policies in
direct counter to
oppressive policy.
(Example: created an all
gender bathroom or
holistic bathroom policy.)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been tempted to participate in performative activism? What mobilized you towards actual change?
2. In your opinion, is performative activism equivalent to, better than, or worse than silence?



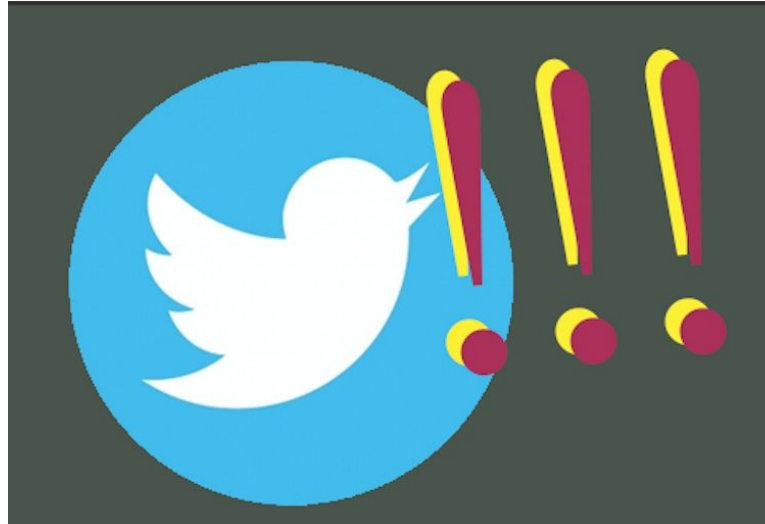
Defining Competitive Wokeness

1. What is competitive wokeness?
2. Why is competitive wokeness harmful?
3. Is competitive wokeness ever beneficial?



Barack Obama Speaks On “Competitive Wokeness”

A quick note about call-out culture!



CHARACTERISTICS OF COMPETITIVE WOKENESS

- **Making assumptions:** “I feel even dumber asking you to sign a petition or educate yourself on [ISSUE] when even performative activism is clearly too much work for you.”
- **Quantifying:** “So-and-so has only signed 100 petitions, but I’ve signed 1,000. She clearly doesn’t care about the cause.”
- **Judging people for not knowing everything:** “She didn’t even know what performative activism vs allyship is, so clearly she doesn’t care enough to educate herself.
- **Failure to admit missteps in activism:** “I can’t believe you would say I’m insensitive for saying [BLANK]. I do so much for the [BLANK] community.”



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think the appeal is of competitive wokeness, and how can it be combatted?
2. How can you respond to insensitive actions without falling into the “competitively woke” trap?



Simulation

1. A friend admits that they only posted a black square because they didn't want to seem racist.
2. Someone swipes up on your story and generalizes your intention by saying "you know posting on insta doesn't do anything, right?".
3. A person you follow on Instagram creates a thread calling people out who they believe "haven't done enough."
4. A friend tells you that they believe they are a better activist than others because they went to a protest in person.



Moment of Silence

I COMMIT...

To attend in forums regularly, to participate in Unity Council, and to unify our SJS community.

To get in front of the problem, not behind it. To be PROactive, so we don't have to be REactive. To stay ahead of issues and stay ahead of tragedies.

To use my influence. To use my voice courageously. To talk to my friends, classmates, teachers, siblings, and parents.

To be ANTI-racist. To acknowledge that it is not enough for me to say "I am not a racist."

To remember that a discussion about human rights is NOT about politics.

#ICOMMITSJS

THEY KNOW NOT TO DRINK
THE DRUG