

# HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST

EDLD 9435 Book  
Presentation



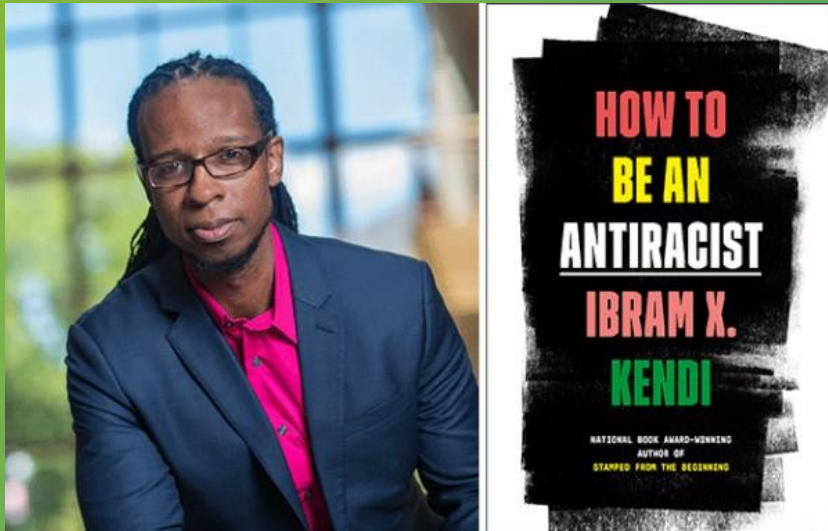
---

# Introduction to My Book Selection

- Author- Ibram X. Kendi
  - Professor in Humanities at Boston University
  - Founding Director- Center for Antiracist Research
- 2019- Published by Randomhouse
- NY Times bestseller- 1 of 3 he wrote

Info from [ibramxkendi.com/about](http://ibramxkendi.com/about)





# *How to Be an Antiracist-* History, Narrative, and Guide

- Begins with "My Racist Introduction"
- Provides definitions and concepts before explaining racism (and antiracism) in multiple arenas—space, bodies, gender, power...
- "We know how to be racist. We know how to pretend to be not racist Now let's know how to be antiracist" (Kendi, 2019, p. 11).



# Early Chapters Provide a Base for Text

- Chapter 1- Definitions
  - Racist versus antiracist defined
  - "Definitions anchor us in principle" (p. 17)
- Chapter 2- Dueling Consciousness
  - Discusses idea of assimilationists, segregationists, and antiracists
  - W.E.B. Dubois' double consciousness- *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)
- Chapter 3- Power
  - Race is a power construct
  - First to use term "race" was poet Jacques de Breze- 1481



---

# Antiracist Ideas in Varying Contexts

- Body
  - "Our stories center on violent Black bodies instead of the overwhelming majority of nonviolent Black bodies" (p. 78)
- Culture
  - "I loved what they considered dysfunctional- African American culture" (p. 85).
- Space
  - "the space racism that deracializes and normalizes and elevates elite White spaces... we will find good and bad, violence and nonviolence, in all spaces" (p. 169)
- Gender
  - "To truly be antiracist is to be feminist. To truly be feminist is to be antiracist" (p. 189).



+

o

# How do we move forward from here, according to Kendi?

●

- "Racism has always been terminal *and* curable. Racism has always been recognizable and mortal" (Kendi, 2019, p. 223).
- Reframe White people versus Black people- doesn't consider that all White people don't benefit equally from racism
- Change the way we think and the language we use to express racism- keep everyday people in mind
  - Need to turn to new words- say "institutionally racist policies" is firmer than "institutional racism"



# What stood out to me

- Connection to his familial and education roots
  - Appreciates it and also struggles with some of his history
- Honesty in his own racism
  - "The car of racism can drive just as far with the right intentions" (p. 112).
  - Looked down on non-urban Black people
- The issues with some opinions of previously-believed tolerant individuals in history
  - Bill Clinton
  - Barack Obama
  - W.E.B. DuBois





# Connections to the class content

- Kendi's focus on class-
  - Intersection of race and class- race-class
  - hooks (2018)- "poverty is both gendered and racialized"; solidarity among the White and Black working classes needs to be "rooted in a politics of resistance that is fundamentally anti-racist" (p. 217)
- Kendi discusses the Black female and the ideas surrounding her
  - Solnit (2018) talks about fighting on 2 fronts- Black women fight on more?
- Fear of the Black body- Ta-Nehisi Coates
  - Letter to my Son- "Somewhere out there... there were other worlds where children did not regularly fear for their bodies" (p. 134)
- Influence of Black student center on campus
  - Nasir & Al-Amin talk about the safe spaces for Muslim students in similar way-identity- safe environment (p. 327)







# Connections to my role and research

- Kendi's work at American University echoes what all educational leaders need to do
  - Racial inequality is about bad policies, not bad people
  - Find antiracist policies at my institutions to replace the racist ones
  - Monitor closely to prevent new racist policies from being created
- Peer educator research
  - Social identities of students- how that impacts their experience in the campus learning center



- + ○ ●

"WHAT IF WE TREATED RACISM IN THE WAY WE TREAT CANCER?" (P. 237).



# References

- Coates, T. (2018). Letter to my son. In M. Adams, W. J. Blumenfield, D. C. J. Catalano, K. DeJong, H. W. Hackman, L. E. Hopkins, B. J. Love, M. L. Peters, D. Shlasko, & X. Zúñiga (Eds.), *Readings for diversity and social justice* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- hooks, b. (2018). Feminism: A movement to end sexist oppression. In M. Adams, W. J. Blumenfield, D. C. J. Catalano, K. DeJong, H. W. Hackman, L. E. Hopkins, B. J. Love, M. L. Peters, D. Shlasko, & X. Zúñiga (Eds.), *Readings for diversity and social justice* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Ibram X. Kendi. (2020). About. Retrieved from <https://www.ibramxkendi.com/about>
- Kendi, I.X. (2019). *How to be an antiracist*. One World.
- Nasir, N. & Al-Amin, J. (2018). Creating identity-safe spaces on college campuses for Muslim students. In M. Adams, W. J. Blumenfield, D. C. J. Catalano, K. DeJong, H. W. Hackman, L. E. Hopkins, B. J. Love, M. L. Peters, D. Shlasko, & X. Zúñiga (Eds.), *Readings for diversity and social justice* (4th ed.). Routledge.
- Solnit, R. (2018). Men explain things to me. In M. Adams, W. J. Blumenfield, D. C. J. Catalano, K. DeJong, H. W. Hackman, L. E. Hopkins, B. J. Love, M. L. Peters, D. Shlasko, & X. Zúñiga (Eds.), *Readings for diversity and social justice* (4th ed.). Routledge.

