

# RACIAL EQUITY & LIBERATION

Facilitated by Monica Dennis & Rachael Ibrahim



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## Pework

# LOCATING ONESELF

One of the primary functions of oppression is to disconnect us from ourselves, from each other and from our stories. Where there is disconnection, **domination**, **control** and **violence** can easily take root. The practice of **Locating Oneself** is a form of cultural resistance and is an essential component of our liberation journey. While our multiple identities and social locations can shift at any given moment, it is helpful to explore how our stories intersect and how they are reflected in our approach to movement building.

### This practice:

- centers us as the authors of our narratives
- allows for multiple truths to exist
- acknowledges our intersecting identities and experiences
- provides space for us to examine the impacts of oppression
- roots our experiences in a historical context
- creates opportunities for connection



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## Check out the following videos from Race Forward's #RaceAnd series

**#RaceAnd:** Judith LeBlanc, Member of the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma,  
Director of Native Women's Organizer Alliance

**#RaceAnd:** Sonia Guiñansaca, Migrant, Poet and Organizer

**#RaceAnd:** Kay Ulanday Barrett, Activist, Cultural Worker, Disability Justice Advocate

**#RaceAnd:** Arielle Newton, Founder of BlackMillenials.com, Writer, Organizer

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### Reflections

- What was your experience of the storytellers? How did you feel?
- In what ways did you notice the storytellers engaging the practice of **Locating Oneself**?
- Although these are personal stories, how are they shaped by a collective experience? By history?
- Other insights?

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## **This week's practice:** Locating Oneself

**Got a piece of paper, pen, and/or colored pencils?**

**Spend 20 minutes** journaling or creating an art response **to** the following prompts:

- Who are you? Name your intersections.
- Who are your people? Be expansive.
- Which of your stories are hyper-visible? Which are less visible?
- Where and how does your story intersect with racism? With other forms of oppression?
- How might your leadership within this group be impacted by your various identities and intersections?

### **After completing the exercise, let's reflect...**

- What has become clearer?
- What remains unanswered?
- What stories do you wish to explore?

**Thanks for reviewing the pre-work!**

