

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), with the support of the International Literacy Association (ILA), is sponsoring a writing project related to the theme of the 2024 AERA Annual Conference: “Dismantling Racial Injustice and Constructing Educational Possibilities: A Call to Action.”

The initiative centers on asking students in kindergarten through grade 12 how they feel about diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice to gain unique insights into the school environment.

Between November 1, 2023, and February 16, 2024, school-based educators are invited to submit student responses to one of the following five prompts (which can be rephrased based on age level) for potential inclusion in a session at the 2024 AERA conference:

1. How do you define diversity? What does diversity look like in your school or classroom? Why is it important to focus on diversity? Do you see and/or hear yourself reflected in the books and/or conversations in school? How does (or can) diversity make school a better place?
2. What does race and/or racism mean to you? When did you become aware of your own racial identity? What is your earliest memory about race and racism? In what ways do you see racism in the world?
3. Do your teachers (or other adults in your school) talk about race and racism? Why is it important to talk about race and racism in school? Do you think teachers (and adults in your school) should have more conversations about race and racism? Why or why not?
4. What does it mean to fight against racial injustice in education? Why is it important to fight against racial injustice in education? What other injustices do you see in education that need to be addressed? How do you, your teachers, your school, and/or your community fight against racial and/or other injustices?
5. How do/would you define educational justice? What does educational justice look like in school and/or the community? How could people work toward educational justice? How do you know when educational justice has been achieved?

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Educators may submit students’ responses through the official [electronic entry form](#).

All student work must be uploaded in a PDF format (preferred) or Word document.

Educators may combine multiple student responses to the same prompt in one file *provided that* each response appears on its own page along with the following information:

- First name and last initial of student
- Age of student
- Grade level of student
- City and state of school

Educators will be notified by March 6, 2024, if one or more of the submitted responses will be included in a session.

ELIGIBILITY AND TIMELINE

- Open to students in kindergarten through grade 12
- Each student response may not exceed 1,000 words.
- All responses must be submitted by an educator or other school representative.
- All educator submissions must be received by February 16, 2024.
- Educators will be notified by March 6, 2024, if a student response has been selected.