

1. That's one thing on my list of things I am privileged enough not to have to worry about. I don't experience not seeing someone who looks like me in the media, not because of the color of my skin. There's no shortage of white actors and actresses dominating the entertainment industry and politics and other mediums of media. I've never had the experience of being unsure whether I can or be something because of a lack of representation. At the same time, when black individuals are portrayed in the media they are usually used to portray victims or a "damsel in distress" that someone else has to save.
2. I think when a nonwhite person is centered in spaces and/or conversations...it's shocking. Not in a "wow!" way and not in a good or a bad way. I think this shock comes from a place of being unexpected. The reality tends to be that people expect white-centered situations, so when that's not what people experience, it can be shocking and unexpected.
3. I think a large issue arises when people of color do not rise to white standards. As I am mentioned several times, white people expect people who are not white to morph to what we deem normal or acceptable. I think in this society, anything that doesn't fall under the category of "normal" or "usually" is just seen as wrong. I include myself in this. When people are telling you the socially appropriate way to behave, you're going to listen to that, and you probably expect others to do the same.
4. Relating back to the Black Lives Matter movement that is in everyone's minds right now, I think we see a lot of white people, both with and without a platform speaking out about their feelings about the issue. I think this particular issue is a bit different because it seemingly blew up for everyone. However, generally speaking, I feel like, as a white person, I almost have the luxury of talking about race issues without tone policing. It seems to me that when we are speaking *for* people of color it's almost more acceptable than when a person of color is standing up and speaking for themselves. I think white people want to relate more and sympathize more with the people that look like them. The same issue is taken more seriously when white people are debating it than when black people are passionately speaking out about it.
5. I can only imagine how white centering affects people of color. From my perspective, they're always on the outside. There's nearly always someone white representing them or they have no representation at all. I think this also relates back to next week about them feeling unwanted or not belonging in their own country.