

Samiira a	You live in Mount Vernon, right?	11;20
Robert k	Actually, I'm out in north base out by Belfair now	
sa	Oh, how long have you been in that area?	
rk	I've been at this school now it's my third year at this school	
Sa	where did you live before N Mason?	
Rk	well, I was up in Bellingham for about 6 years before that and for that I was principal in Marysville	
Sa	what brought you like to where you are now like why do you move?	
Rk	well and opportunity to work with the school that really needed some turn around and support in becoming a good school	
Sa	what do you identify as ethnically?	
Rk	Oh, my ethnicity well I would identify myself as Caucasian white	
Sa	what are some things from your ethnicity that brings you the most pride?	
Rk	I you know I don't know if anything that I'm proud of is related to my ethnicity it's something different I guess when you're predominant you know culture	

Sa	what is something in N Mason that you wish people practiced more?	
Rk	patience acceptance there's a lot of hate for others that are different other races their home there's quite a bit of racism in this community	
Sa	um what is something from your childhood that differs from children nowadays?	
Rk	I would say the opportunities for children are less now than they were when I was well when I was your age or middle school or high school, we had opportunities to go out to movies bowling roller skating there were just tons of things for teenagers to go out yes that wasn't monitored by parents and things like that there's just not as much of that around anymore	
Sa	OK what is a historical event from your lifetime that has had a big impact on you	
Rk	probably the biggest historical event in my lifetime would have been the 9/11 attacks in New York they changed so much about our government society that hasn't gone back	
Sa	yeah, what are some microaggressions found in north Mason or your previous city	
rk	well in north Mason microaggressions yeah I guess I don't know if I could articulate it as while being white and part of the majority but I know that a lot of our Hispanic, Guatemalan families are dealing with a lot of the microaggressions of dismissiveness	

	<p>ignoring demanding they speak English things like that</p>	
Sa	<p>yeah, what about your previous city</p>	
Rk	<p>when in Mount Vernon the neat thing about mount Vernon is 60% of the town is Hispanic it's really neat to see how it's changed over the last 20 years, and I'd say if there's microaggressions it is around the white minority now in in the town really not accepting the change of the community and the culture of the town</p>	
Sa	<p>yeah, have you ever experienced discrimination against you</p>	
Rk	<p>I don't really feel so it's hard for me to say that I've experienced discrimination based on my ethnicity sometimes I feel like I've experienced it when I was younger due to my poverty but honestly it comparison to someone that was in the same amount one of my best friends who was black had way more impact in discrimination than I ever did and it took me a long time to realize that</p>	
Sa	<p>is that the same within the work community?</p>	
Rk	<p>I would say so one of the things as a principal of school I try to do is encourage more diversity among my staff try recruit black or Hispanic teachers and it's hard to keep a minority teacher because of you talked about the microaggressions but the teachers of that come in feel that microaggression constantly from parents and students fellow staff members and it's very hard to keep a diverse staff together</p>	

sa

have you ever witnessed discrimination within the work community?

rk

I believe I have I think there's been many instances in my leadership where I've had to address what I clearly saw as a racist behavior by colleagues or by teachers

Sa

OK do you see or hear students who express who experience racism or other forms of oppression

Rk

who experienced it yes very much so whether it's dealing with other students who tend to take on white supremacist ideals or even if it's groups of students who harass our LGBTQ students who are trying to express themselves

Sa

is it often do you see it often?

Rk

yes, unfortunately I do see it very often

Sa

that sucks how do you feel about participating in the Pledge of Allegiance

Rk

well I'm gonna tell you right now because I'm a principal I actually have to lead the Pledge of Allegiance every day and I've done so for the last 16 years but personally I do not say it any other time because my personal feelings is I don't believe in pledging to a nation state I believe more in the goodness of humanity in a world culture rather than a nation

sa

do you feel like that should be changed within the school system?

rk	<p>well that the reason I continue to do it is because it is actually state law that the Pledge of Allegiance is read at schools every single day and so if in order for it to be changed in schools at least in this state it needs to actually be changed as a law in the state itself</p>	
Sa	<p>I don't agree with the law that shouldn't be there have you ever experienced with race where you felt the need to suppress your thoughts</p>	
Rk	<p>are you talking about kind of my own biases I mean first of all you know everybody does have their own biases that they come with them and they have to be aware of them and there are times in which I've had to check my own biases in order to go forward with either students or parents to try to support them and be successful</p>	
Sa	<p>yeah, that makes sense who has been a hero to you inside in the civil rights or social justice front</p>	
Rk	<p>my biggest hero of all time is probably Malcolm X although I go lot of people feel that he was really heavy radical his commitment to his beliefs and his values were always strong and I believe that he was really working hard to better people</p>	
Sa	<p>OK when was it when you realized that you had power or privilege over another group</p>	
Rk	<p>probably I was in my 30s by that time I mean I like I said it was a kid I always saw myself and the terms of poverty not in the terms of race and especially considering all my friends were of different racial ethnicities and then it was only when I started in</p>	

	<p>the other teacher and a leader in the schools that I really saw the power that the authorities have and how it can be used for good or abuse when it comes to dealing with minorities</p>	
Sa	<p>did you have you ever felt like you've missed used that power since you didn't realize it later on</p>	
Rk	<p>yeah, I can't think of a of a particular time right now but I'm sure especially in my early career I used the power without knowing or and looking back on it knowing that I would do things so much differently in those situations</p>	
Sa	<p>what is an experience from when you first learned about inequality?</p>	
Rk	<p>OK here's a good one when I was 18 years old best friend decided we'd go out and rent an apartment together and everywhere we went to rent an apartment the place had either been rented already or they refused to see us it was only after my friend said that he had to go help his dad move and then I went into the next place we were gonna rent then we got a place and when we started moving in the landlord came over and started yelling at me saying who's this guy with you I said well this is the guy that's rooming with me and he said no no no no you don't have any roommates I said yeah if you look on the contract it says me and his name and the guy said no we're not gonna take any niggers in this building</p>	
Sa	<p>Really</p>	

Rk	yeah, and I looked at the guy and I said well we've signed the contract so unless you're kicking us out you know we're gonna be living here for the next six months	
Sa	that's crazy	
Rk	yeah, that was I and then I realized why we didn't get any apartments until then because he was with me all the time yeah and so they could say no right there but when I was by myself, they went ahead and rented to me	
Sa	Dang that's crazy what role does culture play in your life	
Rk	you know I I'd say the only role culture ever played in my life probably would have been when I bought a girlfriend home my dad was really excited, she was Irish but other than that you know the privilege in which I've lived in due to my race is really kind of been the dominant hand and it's hard to say what was specifically towards the culture	
Sa	yeah, OK has a family member a family member ever shamed you for not being true to your roots	
Rk	yes	
Sa	what was that experience	
Rk	you might ask your mom about our grandma Callahan sometime	
Sa	wasn't she prejudice?	

Rk	how she ever and she I brought a girlfriend home one time who was black, and she just went bananas, and I said the most horrible racist things to me about her	
Sa	yeah, it was didn't she also do that to Kenny	
Rk	yes, yes, she did that was that was horrid with that and everything that happens just horrified	
Sa	Dang that's crazy, thank you a lot	