

The New York Times

'A Conversation With White People on Race'

By Blair Foster and Michèle Stephenson

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**Speaker 1** | It's very uncomfortable to talk about race. Umm...it's not something...it's not something I do.

**Speaker 2** | Now I understand that it's a system of advantages and disadvantages based on race. So as much as there's the disadvantage piece of it, there's the advantage piece of it which is what I experience as a white person

**Speaker 3** | One of my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students seemed pretty rocked after the Eric Garner case, I mean death, and they came up to me and said, "When you were little, like, were you worried about this stuff too?" And I knew what he was talking about, I mean, I didn't say, "what do you mean what 'stuff'?" I didn't want to play dumb. And I said, "no, I didn't have to be." and that's not fair.

**Speaker 4** | I know that I am white, and I guess I'm part of that collection. Um — but eh... I don't think about being white. I don't.

**Speaker 5** | I really did not know that I had a racial identity. I knew I was white. I had no idea what that meant, how that had shaped my outlook on life, how that had shaped my sense of optimism, sense of belonging, sense of safety, sense of feeling entitled to go help children that I thought were part of a community that couldn't figure out how to help themselves.

**Speaker 6** | My mind, there's no "I'm not involved in any conflict that involves race". I've only been the beneficiary of it. So, to talk about it, I don't think I would sound very wise.

**Speaker 7** | Being white means that I have the privilege to think I'm not affected by racism or that I don't even have a race because I have all these other things like a gender and a sexual orientation, and those are pretty neat. So, I don't have a race. But I do, and I'm white.