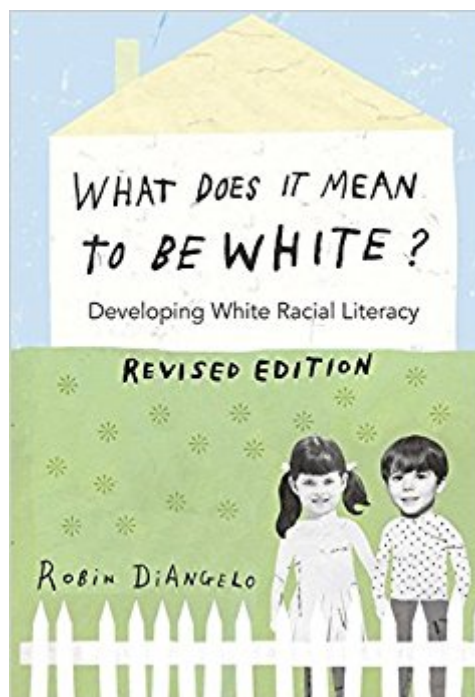




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# What Does It Mean To Be White?: Developing White Racial Literacy — Revised Edition (Counterpoints)



## Synopsis

What does it mean to be white in a society that proclaims race meaningless, yet is deeply divided by race? In the face of pervasive racial inequality and segregation, most white people cannot answer that question. In the second edition of this seminal text, Robin DiAngelo reveals the factors that make this question so difficult: mis-education about what racism is; ideologies such as individualism and colorblindness; segregation; and the belief that to be complicit in racism is to be an immoral person. These factors contribute to what she terms white racial illiteracy. Speaking as a white person to other white people, DiAngelo clearly and compellingly takes readers through an analysis of white socialization. Weaving research, analysis, stories, images, and familiar examples, she provides the framework needed to develop white racial literacy. She describes how race shapes the lives of white people, explains what makes racism so hard to see, identifies common white racial patterns, and speaks back to popular narratives that work to deny racism. Written as an accessible overview on white identity from an anti-racist framework, *What Does It Mean to Be White?* is an invaluable resource for members of diversity and anti-racism programs and study groups, and students of sociology, psychology, education, and other disciplines. This revised edition features two new chapters, including one on DiAngelo's influential concept of white fragility. Written to be accessible both within and without academia, this revised edition also features discussion questions, an index, and a glossary.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for the First Edition of *What Does It Mean to Be White?*: "Rarely will one find an analysis of whiteness (and the problems associated with it) that is as comprehensive as this one. From incisive and wide-ranging critiques of how white folks deflect, deny, and evade the topic of racism, and the implications of our own racial identity and position, to an absolutely on-point interrogation of how racism and whiteness influence white teachers-in-training, and thus, the larger educational process, Robin DiAngelo demonstrates the kind of clarity of thought so needed on this important subject." (Tim Wise, Author of *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* and *Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority*)

Robin DiAngelo received her PhD at the University of Washington, where she was twice honored with the Student Choice Award for Educator of the Year. Her concept of white fragility has influenced the national discourse on race. She has published widely in both mainstream and academic venues.

Absolutely eye opening, giving language to the experience of people of color and even poor whites in North America. Written in clear, accessible language, I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to understand this country's legacy of institutional racism and how it is so strongly entrenched that even those suffering under it blame themselves, while those in power readily and easily shirk responsibility based on intent, willful blindness and revisionist history.

I was recommended this book from a fellow educator and it's a wonderful place to start for an educator, or anyone, to begin thinking of their own race identity. I work with youth of all backgrounds and it can be challenging for young white students to know how to identify racism in their own life. Using this book as a tool, I've been able to help bring some conversations of race identity for young individuals in hopes of creating more well rounded people.

A must read for anyone brought up in the United States. Systemic racism is everywhere but if you identify as white, you probably almost never think about it. This book will increase your awareness and understanding of white privilege in America and how it's oppressing our fellow humans.

"TRUTH TELLER"

This book is an important part of a study group at our church about learning about how people view race.

It was gratifying to read a book about white supremacy and institutional racism, written by a white person. Book was informative and gave ways that white people can start to make changes.

Essential read. This book is fantastic! It really helps by providing language to talk about racism in America. That MUST be the starting point. She talks about the barriers to starting the conversation so people can recognize to start to work through them. She is SPOT ON! If you believe in equality and that is your goal, this is a book that will shift your paradigm such that you can actually start making real progress toward that goal.

A must read

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