

SCHOOL CLIMATE AND CULTURE IN THE MIDDLE GRADES

Christy M. Byrd, PhD

What questions do you have about school climate, especially racial climate?



Middle school is a time of identity exploration



Race and other social identities matter!



To improve school climate, start with gathering data from many different people



Build community by telling stories



Storytelling activities

Concentric Circles: https://tide.wordpress.ncsu.edu/concentriccircles/

Testimonials: https://tide.wordpress.ncsu.edu/testimonials/

Five Minute Poem: https://tide.wordpress.ncsu.edu/five-minutepoem/

Name Story: https://tide.wordpress.ncsu.edu/name-story/

Don't be afraid of emotion



Respond to stories about discrimination and with empathy and outrage



Teach the community how to respond to bias



Celebrate each other!

