Checklists for Vetting Anti-Racist Curriculum

Anti-racist Checklist:

Does it clearly and unapologetically call out racism AND support the personal/academic development of African American and Latinx children?

Does it address one or more of the 4 ‘I”s in relation to systemic racism? Specifically, the internalized and interpersonal racism is attended to, and healing processes put in their places.

Does it undermine, expose, and/or disprove white supremacy?

Jared Kushida’s Checklist from Preparing to Teach Social Studies for Social Justice: Becoming a Renegade (Teachers College Press, 2016)

Is it:

Truthful—Is this a “Red Pill” lesson?

Content Heavy—Is the historical information in this lesson plentiful and relevant?

Critical—Are students going to analyze, evaluate, and question enough?

Dialectical—Are students going to have the space to dialogue about their ideas?

Problem-Posing—Are students going to solve a problem that can be related to the real world?

For community—Does this lesson bring us together? Can what we learn be applied locally?

Humanizing—Does this curriculum do justice and restore dignity to the people we are studying?

Democratizing—Will students have and feel the freedom to make choices?

Empowering—Can this lead to social justice action in the future?

Not “Nice”—Does this curriculum avoid sugarcoating reality?

For Hope—Is the idea of possibility present in this curriculum?