



# Calling All Colors 2018-19 (Middle School Lesson #5)

***We All Have Culture... Instead of focusing on our differences, let's build a bridge of compassion on what we have in common***

**Calling All Colors Charge:** After the CAC Fall Conference student groups will meet back at their schools and participate in rare, open, honest discussions about race issues within the school context.

**Lesson Goals:** We all have culture and identities that make us all unique. The key is understanding how we can move away from seeing our differences as a barrier to building lasting friendships and instead, create a school community where embracing diversity and moving beyond tolerance to genuine acceptance.

## Supplies:

- Have each student bring an item or object which is tied to their family history or cultural traditions. An alternative is to describe the artifact or show a picture of it
- Computer to play video
- The large butcher block paper from lesson 1-2 to record project ideas during this lesson's conclusion

## Part 1

**Agenda:** Activity Length 30-40 minutes

- Please view the video entitled, "*Diversity and Inclusion: Lessons in Friendship and Love*" by Maryam Elassar. The video is approximately 6 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzu3ira61k8>

**As an entire CAC Group process the following questions:**

- What is your reaction to the video? Was anything surprising? If so, please discuss.
- What did you learn from the video? Did anything you watched make you reflect on your current friendships?
- Are there students in your school who constantly have to explain their identities (racial / gender / religious) to others to be understood and accepted?

## -----Part 2-----

**CAC Facilitator Read the following statements:**

- **Culture:** "the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts." (Source: Live Science)
- The challenge understands that our individual culture takes meaningful and purposeful interactions.
- You have brought a family article or artifact that is tied to your family traditions and history.

**Activity Instructions:** Please pair each student with a partner they have not worked with. Give each pair 15 minutes to discuss the following questions:

- What is your item? How is the item important to your family culture and traditions?
- What stood out to you about the item(s) a fellow student brought? Why?
- What is the difference between culture and race? Could you share a racial identity with someone and not share a culture? Discuss

Bring the group back together to answer the following closing questions:

- How did the activity make you feel?
- How could we create opportunities for our schoolmates to share and celebrate their culture like we did today? (Take notes on the butcher block paper).