**Race PBS Series Questions**

**Episode 1 Questions:**

1. What is the difference between a biological and a social view of race?

2. Excluding your immediate family members, are you more likely to be genetically like someone who looks like you or someone who does not?

3. Why is it impossible to use biological characteristics to sort people into consistent races? Review some of the concepts such as "non-concordance" and "within-group vs. between group variation."

4. Who has benefited from the belief that we can sort people according to race and that there are natural or biologically based differences between racial groups?

5. Besides race, what other things explain why some people might be more susceptible than others to disease? Think about the girl in the film with sickle cell anemia. How is ancestry different from race?

**Episode 2 Questions:**

6. What are some ways that race has been used to rationalize inequality? How has race been used to shift attention (and responsibility) away from oppressors and toward the targets of oppression?

7. What is the connection of American slavery to prejudices against African-descended peoples? Why does race persist after abolition?

8. Why was it not slavery but freedom and the notion that “all men are created equal” that created a moral contradiction in colonial America, and how did race help resolve that contradiction?

9. Contrast Thomas Jefferson’s policy to assimilate American Indians in the 1780s with Andrew Jackson’s policy of removing Cherokees to west of the Mississippi in the 1830s. What is common to both policies? What differentiates them?

10, What did the publications of scientists Louis Agassiz, Samuel Morton, and Josiah Nott argue, and what was their impact on U.S. legal and social policy?

11. What role did beliefs about race play in the American colonization of Mexican territory, Cuba, the Philippines, Guam and Puerto Rico?

**Episode 3 Questions:**

12. Who was allowed to become a naturalized citizen before 1954 and who wasn’t? What rights and privileges do citizens have that non-citizens don't have? What were the consequences for those denied citizenship?

13. How did European “ethnics” become white? What changes made this possible?

14. How did federal housing policies institutionalize segregation and wealth disparities?

15. Why do property values go down when a neighborhood changes from white to nonwhite? Who plays a role in this?

16. What happens to measures of racial disparities in places like education and welfare rates when groups of similar income AND wealth are compared?