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**Our America**

## **Writing Your Racial Autobiography**

### **01.What is my earliest memory of race**

My earliest memory of race was when I first arrived in Jacksonville, Florida prior to that I live in south sudan and Kenya and race was not something that was talked about I knew that different people existed and that people ranged in shades when it comes to color but the important in my life in the united states it did not play such a big role in my life in south sudan or Kenya in the united states, race is an important part of my identity, my race determines a lot for me.

### **02.Have i had any negative experience associated with my racial identity or that of someone else?**

Yes, I have had negative experiences associated with my racial identity. One of my experiences, was when I went to play basketball against an all white team in Jacksonville, Florida. The boys were being mean and say hateful things. As well as repeating African

stereotypes. At the time, I didn't realize that it was racism. After that my coach told me to be careful with those boys because he overheard the boys saying some hateful things about Africans.

### **03. When did I become racially conscious?**

I became racially conscious when I moved to Jacksonville, Florida. As I said above race was not a construct that I thought about prior to moving to the United States. Moving to the United States made me conscious of race.

### **04. From whom or in what period of life did I learn the most**

I am currently learning about race and diversity. I have only been in this country since December 25, 2020, I am still learning about this construct that I was introduced to two years ago. I have always know about diversity. I know different people exist and so on but I am now learning the importance of diversity.

### **05. about race and diversity?**

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**06. Can I describe the different stages of racial identity development I've gone through and what made me aware of each?**

I am currently still in stage one of my racial identity development. I am still learning my place as a Black man in the United States. What I can and can't do. What I can and can't say. Where I can and can't go. It was interesting to learn that I can be seen as a threat because I never saw myself in such light before I came to the United States. All the knowledge that I have gained so far about the weight of the color of my skin has been nerve racking.

**07. What concerns me about my racial past? • What encourages me about my racial past?**

What concerns me about my racial past is the fact that I don't have a racial past. Why are we not educated about how other people may see us? I think people should know, especially people of color about how the world may view them before they travel the world. What encourages me about my racial past is that I was not exposed to seeing my skin color as a problem or exposed to my skin color being attributed to every aspect of my life. Race is a bit of a conundrum; on one hand I wish I would have known the vital role it plays in my identity but on the other hand I am happy I was ignorant to it because the knowledge of it comes with too much responsibility and precautions.

**08. Why do I "do" racial justice?**

I do Racial Justice because it is the right thing to do. We should want fair treatment, equitable rights and a just society for all regardless of race. The purpose of Racial Justice for me is to ensure the wellbeing of all. To make sure that society becomes a better place where people don't have to endure things because they were born with a certain skin color.