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SWK 658 Clinical Groups

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Journal #6

This week's journal is based on using the RAP framework in session. The RAP framework is used when leading multicultural groups. This session's topic was whether statues in observant confederate areas should remain in place or be taken down. The group's size was 6, with a facilitator leading the group. The facilitator stayed neutral and gave value to each opposing viewpoint.

I was asked to play the role of the person whose opinion was to keep the confederate leader's statue up. Others wanted the statue removed because it constantly reminded them of white oppression. The debate got intense, and a group member threatened to attack my character because of my viewpoint before the conversation even started. It was difficult for the facilitator to manage the group because it seemed the facilitator agreed with the side of taking it down but was doing her best to stay neutral, which she did successfully, to her credit. Eventually, she stepped in to slow down the over-talking and side conversation to get the group to look at each other's points of view.

This sensitive topic can be challenging to keep in a cohesive multicultural group. This reminded me very much of running groups during the last couple of Presidential races, where each side was so polarized it became challenging to keep brothers seeing each other and treating each other as brothers.

The RAP framework is excellent for managing this kind of group because it forces each member to think outside their worldview while trying to find a middle group.