



Lesson Guide

Numbers Don't Lie - Model Minority Myth Explained in 3 Minutes

Vocabulary List (*list of words or phrases that are related to the topic for which the lesson guide is being created for*)

1. **Model minority stereotype:** Beliefs and expectations that generalize Asian Americans as a group to be smart, high-income, highly accomplished, hard-working, quiet, and compliant. The group is portrayed to be more successful than the general population and stereotyped to be a “model.”
2. **myth:**
3. **Refugee:** A person who has been forced to leave their country as a result of war, violence, conflict, persecution, or natural disaster. Often, they have crossed international borders to find safety in other countries.
4. **Systemic racism:** Institutional and social structures and interactions that discriminate against minority groups and contribute to racially unequal opportunities and outcomes over generations
5. **Monolithic:** Big and made of one thing
6. **Aggregate:** sum of multiple things added together
7. **Predetermined:** set up or decide in advance
8. **Racial inequality:** unequal distribution of power and resources and unfair treatment of different racial groups that lead to unequal outcomes

Suggested Discussion Topics

1. What is the intended consequence of giving Asian American the Model Minority label? Is it viewed positively? If so, by whom? What are the unintended consequences because of this label?
2. Why does the model minority stereotype create a wedge between people of color and harm collective action for racial justice?
3. What are the different ways to dismantle the model minority myth? How can we counteract the effects of the model minority stereotype?
4. How does the model minority myth further perpetuates Asian Americans to be perpetual foreigners in American society?
5. When a group of diverse ethnicity is grouped together and then labeled with a stereotype portrait of the group, the outlier information is not being brought to attention. How does that hurt the Asian American population that does not fit in the “model”?



Suggested Activities

1. Explore [AAPI data](#) and the data on [Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities](#) by Pew Research. Discuss in small groups about your reflections on the experiences reported by Asian Americans and if examining the data has changed your perception of Asian Americans, the diversity within the group, and the different needs of the individual subgroups.
2. Stereotypes are often perpetuated due to a lack of knowledge and experience with a group. Take some time to learn about [Asian Americans who have contributed to civil rights in the United States](#).

Suggested Additional Filmography, Podcast, Videos (optional - delete if not applicable)

1. [The 'Model Minority' Myth | U.S.-China Insights](#), August 6, 2020, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations
2. [The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority](#), by Ellen D. Wu, 2015
3. [The Myth of the Model Minority Asian Americans Facing Racism](#), by Rosalind S. Chou and Joe R. Feagin, 2010