

Hi all! I have taken the Instagram page for Black at Emerson down as I wanted to keep the responses up but I am well aware of trolls/people who try to hack into accounts and I wanted to protect the confessionals from that. I still and will forever have the Google Form for submissions, which is linked below. Being that it has been four years since it began, as well as after most of the students who were involved in the subsequent ESOC Week of Action have graduated, I wondered how much change had happened post-protests of that school year—both ESOC Week of Action and The Access Advocacy Project. I, of course, had little to no expectation that Emerson College had done anything substantial to follow-up on what they had “promised.” I was correct, especially seeing how many more protests came after that the institution willfully and intentionally diminished from the school radar.

After ESOC Week of Action and The Access Advisory Project, the school took our lists of demands and created an “action plan” to address the issues we brought to them. Each “task” they made for each demand has a status on it of either “in progress” or “complete.” To no surprise, almost all of them are still marked “in progress,” *except* for the task of making a public statement in response. The joke of it all is that for many of the “in progress” tasks, there is no update on how far along they are in completing them. It just says to email the “community equity” email while below sit the demands that were carefully written and crafted by the members of the ESOC Week of Action and the members of The Access Advocacy Project. We sat in meetings with administration, meetings where they looked us in the eye and told us that they weren’t in charge of the things that we had been directed to them to discuss, after being sent from a different admin member who had given us the same response. The link to the action plan is below as well.

The school laughs in the face of those seeking help from it.

Being that it is Black History Month and the Black students of Emerson College still face innumerable injustices at the hands of fellow students as well as faculty, I am bringing back the Black at Emerson Google Form, the responses of such will be updated below regularly. A couple of the responses have been removed; the features of the responses, such as capitalization, punctuation, and spelling have all been kept as is. Posts 1-120 are from 2020, any further submissions will be from 2024 and thereafter. The college has had so much time to make so much more progress, yet it unsurprisingly continues to fail.

Happy Black History Month!

Sincerely,

Valentine (any email inquiries send to [valentinealexandriacarr@gmail.com](mailto:valentinealexandriacarr@gmail.com))

<https://emerson.edu/community-equity-action-plan/demands-actions>

[Black at Emerson Google Form Link](#)

1. When the most diversity I've seen at Emerson is in the dining hall and it's still not coming from the students, it's the cooks serving us.

2. When I get cast, there is always some comment made about how it's due to my racial background- the directors wanted to look diverse, do something different/progressive, etc. These comments always undermine my talent and hard work. My white professors have, in their well-intentioned attempts at being woke and holding space for their bpoc students, done many questionable things. In an acting class, we were split up by race. White students shared stories of privilege with black students, who shared stories of discrimination. We then shared the story we were told with the entire class as if it was our own. I was incredibly uncomfortable watching a white student recount a horrific story regarding police brutality. In another class, we listened to the I Have a Dream speech. Our professor was crying in the corner as we listened, as were many of my white peers. It was a strange experience for me and the other black students in the class, observing their white guilt. It felt like when I learned about slavery for the first time in elementary school, and I could feel that my white classmates were looking at me.
  
3. The financial aid department is extremely racist and stingy. told me to my face: "we admitted you here because we thought you could afford a place like this. we should have known better." should have known better because i'm a black student from a low income household... what a joke. this school preaches inclusivity but does nothing to fix marginalization of black students. they'll accept black students in low income households knowing that they can't pay for it and they'll give them nothing in aid. but yay diversity yay inclusivity!! with a POC percentage of less than 20 percent and a black student percentage of less than 3 🙄

4. During my speech comm presentation, I was describing harmful stereotypes of black people in the media and their origins. I described the harsh origin of the doting black motherly figure and how it dated back to slavery, etc., etc., and my professor described to me a character that fit the stereotype down to a t, then asked me if she fit the stereotype, and when I said yes, he proceeded to “explain” how even though she was, she was still “a loveable character” and some other bs.
5. When there is one EmStage show dedicated to “diversity” and all the students refer to it as “The black show”
6. Freshman year at Emerson college I was the only POC in my entire suite. And I knew other people that also where the only POC in their living situations too. And when I complained about it, someone referenced segregation. But right then it felt like Emerson housing was trying to segregate all the POC from each other. It felt alienating.
7. When white students were protesting a tuition increase and decided to appropriate the black power fist for an Instagram post. Instead of calling them out, our white peers applauded them in the comments.

8. In African American history (the only class I've ever had taught by a black woman at Emerson), a white girl withdrew from the class because the material "just wasn't for her."
9. A straight cisgender white professor for a developmental psychology course (who no longer works here) made a statement saying that "racism is dead" during the first week of class, and then proceeded to talk about how it's been replaced with "lookism and the perceptions we have of people who are different". This was really alarming and hurtful to hear. Additional information he provided the class during lectures also sounded inaccurate regarding topics such as sexuality, social cognitive disorders such as Autism. It was a difficult class but the startling statement he made about racism really stood out.
10. I, very respectfully, shared a concern with a White RA. He, very condescendingly, told me that he wasn't going to do anything. When I asked why he called me angry, loud, aggressive and a plethora of other things.
11. What just kills me is how white students are so quick to jump on calling out and canceling professors and administrators for racism that they do experience for

“Solidarity” purposes, but y’all can’t call out your peers or yourselves. Trust me when I say, sometimes you all are just as bad, if not worse.

12. I loved painfully having to explain to my white GROWN ASS ADULT PEERS that they shouldn’t say the N word, especially not in front of me, a victim of a hate crime in my youth.

13. Some girl openly called my friend a mulatto and didn’t understand why it was offensive, even after they explained the history of the word.

14. I was the only black person in my major for YEARS. Years. I’ve faced so much trauma from the upper administration that could go on for pages, but what really upset me were the white PA students who felt they could speak for me and speak to administration like they knew what it was like to be black. They would even speak down to me as if they knew what was best for me, a black woman. Also there should be more black students in the PA dept. Emerson has no excuse anymore for not recruiting diversely. How does Emerson tout itself as a diverse school when we don’t see racial diversity really at all?

15. I was playing a game of “never have I ever” with my white friends and I said “Never have I ever said the N-word” (because personally even though I can I choose not to), and too many people in the room said that they had. I had really hoped that they’d be different, but I guess I was wrong.

16. I was the ONLY Black person in the whole Business of Creative Enterprises major. Literally the only Black person in ALL of my major required classes...and actually, the only time I ever wasn’t the only Black student or one of a rare pair, was in the Africana studies classes (which isn’t surprising..)

17. It was the first week of school and I was excited since I was meeting new people and experiencing the college atmosphere. Well, we were in my friend’s room and I don’t remember how the conversation started, but my ‘friend’ said something like “at least I’m not a mulatto”. It hurt me especially since I’m biracial and hearing a white person say that was shocking and I definitely won’t forget that.

18. A teacher once completely taught minstrel characters wrong and I stopped her. I told her she left out tons of the minstrel characters that are important for us to learn about and she said super excited “oh really, which ones are your FAVORITES.” Favorites? I don’t have

any favorites when I talk about minstrel characters. The teacher was disappointed when I told her I didn't have a favorite.

19. I had a white teacher interrupt me when I was explaining the different waves of black feminism. He stopped me, and told me I was wrong when I was speaking about my own experience.

20. It was the first month of freshman year and I can clearly remember sitting in the common room with a group of my freshmen "friends" and we drifted onto the topic of "COULD you ever be attracted to someone black?" And I so distinctly remember hearing someone start with "no it's something about their hair it's disgusting there's something about it that just looks like rough carpet and it's just such a turnoff" and all the girls in the group laughing and agreeing.

21. One of my suitemates from freshman year told me that she didn't like Afros. She said they looked like public hair to her. Thank god she transferred.

22. During my freshman year I took 'Languages of the Stage.' We were discussing 'Joe Turner's Come and Gone' by August Wilson, which is part of his 'Century Cycle'

featuring the experiences of African-Americans in the 20th Century. This was one of the larger classes at Emerson, perhaps 40+ students, and we had gotten up from our chairs to form a large circle around the room (as one always does in theatre class...). Our professor said that "Even though I have not personally participated in slavery, I cannot help but have white guilt." Then, completely unsolicited, the person next to him said, "Yeah. I have white guilt, too." "Me too." ...and so on and so forth. They were all supporting each other and sounded so apologetic. It went around the entire circle until it came to me.

There was a very long and awkward silence when my turn came, and everyone else finally realized what I had so long ago - that I was the ONLY person of color in the room with over 40+ students. And I'm not even African-American, I'm Asian! I let that sink in for a minute before I lifted my head and said, "I have no white guilt. (Snickers) But I agree with you (sighs of relief)! You should all feel guilty. (Gasps.) What you White people did...that was fucked up."

Cue the outrage choir of "That's not fair, it wasn't MY family!" "That's not fair, I'm gay!" and "That's not fair, I'm Jewish!" They all embraced feeling sorry for each other, but had no problem turning on the one minority in the room when she refused to feel sorry for them. It was peak White fragility. I didn't waver. "Nope. What white people did was wrong. You said you feel guilty, and I agree with you. You should. What White people did to Black people in this country is wrong. And I feel sorry but I don't feel sorry for YOU."

The circle grudgingly moved along and certain people started avoiding me after, which couldn't be helped. Not a single person tried to support me. It was so lonely being the only minority in the room and I was often made to feel like an ambassador of non-white voices. This happened countless times at Emerson.

Thank God I had professors like Robbie McCauley, Sunil Swaroop, Mirta Tocci and allies like Maureen Shea and Bob Colby. They had my back when so many of my classmates didn't.

Emerson Alum, Class of 2006

23. A friend once told me she heard a well known white “feminist” in comedic arts class 2021 said the n word frequently freshman year... not gonna expose you though because you make white savior content on Tik tok now sksksks foolishness

24. My roommate first semester of freshman year used to refer to homeless black people as crackheads, but would always call homeless white people homeless people. She also would constantly talk about how she thought they just “hired people who just got out of jail” to work in the dh which made me sooo uncomfortable.

25. As a journalism major, I haven't really experienced anything racist from my professors or the staff at Emerson... The racism that I have experienced have been from students who have been very passive and negligent when it comes to our experiences of racism in America and our voices until very recently... I find it sad that it took an email from President Lee Pelton for people to realize that being black in America is hard no matter what position you are in life. Before this letter and before the death of George Floyd; Whenever students of color at Emerson would speak on their experiences of what it was like to grow up Black or speak about problems like systemic and structural racism... Many people would treat it as if we were trying to victimize ourselves in hopes of gaining sympathy or credibility... If not that, people would often ignore us, or try and speak for us which is the most dismissive and disrespectful things that you can do to a person of color... I hope when we come back in the fall... Things will be changed.

26. I've never had a WOC as a teacher at Emerson

27. A teacher told me to take out a reference to a hate crime in one of my scripts because in their words, "no studio will want to touch it"

28. i hope that white students will stop speaking over Black and brown students in class so that they can gain credibility as ""woke."" so much of this school looks up to white

students saying the same thing that students of color have for years. i hope every single white student decenters themselves

29. The people who try the hardest to be “woke” are actually so racist. I’ve experienced this many times.

30. I’ve never understood how a place so liberal could be so conservative when it comes to confronting and addressing racism

31. Some people don’t understand that anti-racism is so much more than just saying “I love my black friends”

32. Hearing a white student explain that Asian-Americans being a "model minority" is a good thing irks me to this day, like he didn't realize that stereotypes are racist and harmful regardless of what they are and this idea of "racial puppeteering" to pit POC against each-other is just straight up white supremacy. The same argument is used against affirmative action even when most Asian Students I know recognize that BiPOC need that kind of support now more than ever.

33. This one kid in my Africana Thought and Practice class said “I don’t believe in racism, everyone had equal opportunities.” The class was silent for a whole 2 minutes because of the ignorance that just came out of this kid’s mouth. Until our teacher finally spoke and checked him on his ignorance and disrespectful attitude towards poc women sharing their perspective. His motto basically the whole semester was: it’s his opinion or no opinion. He didn’t wanna hear anything else. Normally I didn’t speak in that class but something in me couldn’t hold it in anymore and I told him to shut the f up....#sorrynotsorry  
#eMeRsOnIsACoMmUniTY

34. during my freshman year at emerson, I took an introduction to theatre class with a white “feminist” professor, her description, not mine. anyway, one class we were watching black hamlet. yes black hamlet which is problematic in itself. she even referred it as black hamlet which was set in africa. now, we didn’t know where in africa but it was just africa as if africa isn’t a continent with different languages and cultures. after we watched the movie, our professor made us discuss and ask questions. one particular international student asked the teacher about ophelia and her hair. if you never seen hamlet before, here’s a brief synopsis: one of the characters, ophelia is happy and in love for half of the movie and for the second half, she becomes sad and dies. when ophelia was “sane” (again, not my words) her naturally curly hair was in a ponytail. when she was sad and “depressed,” her hair was in curly afro. so the international student told our teacher (the white feminists professor who’s preached inclusivity and acceptance the

entire semester) that ophelia's hair was only acceptable when it was ponytail. and when she was wearing her afro when she was "depressed" it looked "unkempt" "nappy" and "ugly." I was shocked that someone would openly label black hair as something other than beautiful. but what makes it even worse: the teacher agreed.

35. I was in a beat journalism class, and each class had a specific community in Boston. My class got Dorchester. Me and the other black person in the class were happy because it's a black area, something Emerson's never experienced. Apparently, other journalism students were saying that they "felt so bad" and were worried about us 😬😬. Anyways, we took a class trip twice, the first time this one girl (let's call her Tabitha) looked scared as soon as we left the train station. She said to me "You know, I'm just a little nervous. Being a white woman, and you know." No I don't know Tabitha. Furthermore, that same trip a loud pop went off from a construction site nearby. She freaked out and told the professor she thought she heard a gunshot... We were right by the courthouse. Me and the other black person in the class just looked at each other. My professor, Janet (yes I'm using her name cause I got smoke with her) gave this BS statement about having to have courage to cover the bad areas. As that class went on, Tabitha literally wrote no articles and had no project to present for her final. She said she had "writer's block." Yea aight. And this doesn't even mention the amount of times other classmates asked me to go with them to "stay safe." Like nobody's gonna hurt you at a barbershop, you're okay 😬😬

36. While I'm here too, shoutout to Paul Niwa for calling me Devin when we look nothing alike. And shoutout to Marsha for calling me Moses and calling a girl's hair "wild." Janet also told us to go "find the flavor" in Dorchester whatever the hell that means and told me to "do yo thang." Her. Exact. Words. Basically the journalism department needs help
37. This isn't a specific story, but I just find is VERY interesting that this page doesn't get as much love as @emersonmissedconnections or @emersonafterdark. I guess Emerson white students are done with their one week of support for black people and voices.
38. I've experienced more racism at Emerson and in Boston than I do at home. and i'm from stone mountain ga, the birthplace of the kkk.
39. Some white guy on my floor was less than sober and decided running down the hall yelling the N-word was the best thing to do at the time.
40. Hearing white students trying to justify using the N word when it's in a song <<< Not using the N word at all because you're white

41. This grinds my gears, it happens in and out of emerson. When I've gotten braids and been asked "is that your real hair?" That or white people just think my hair grew a good twelve inches overnight. One, use common sense; and two, yes this is my hair I paid for it and it's truly none of your business. Also the amount of times Emersonians asked if my braids hurt got annoying. You are paying for higher education, now go use the scholarly database you're thousands of dollars go towards.

42. Another black girl touched my hair in a class without my permission. I was shocked. And it seemed as though the rest of the class knew white people aren't supposed to touch black people's hair. But they didn't know what to do if a black person touched another black person's hair unwarranted. To which I had to explain it is not a matter of race in this scenario, it is BASIC PERSONAL SPACE and you shouldn't violate that no matter what your racial background is!

43. To the professor's and admin of color who have reached out to me because they knew I needed them. I see you and I will never forget the gesture. Thank you 🙏

44. Getting a callback for Fun Home and every single person there asking if I was reading for Joan.... yes, that was one of the roles I was called back for, but it was annoying that

everyone assumed it. POC can get roles that aren't necessarily written for us. We need more leads that ARE written for us.

45. Having people envy you because of affirmative action is something that isn't talked about often enough...

46. Shoutout to the kid in my Research Writing class that tried to argue that just because someone supports Trump doesn't mean they're a bad person...

47. I had to argue with a girl in the DH who said Green Book was an accurate portrayal because black people needed help from white people during the Civil Rights Movement like Jewish people needed help during the Holocaust

48. Emersonmissedconnections had 40-50 comments per post yet each post here has at most 5 comments... white people at Emerson act like they're "woke" and are open to talking about racism but it stays silent as usual. If you wanted to do something productive you'd have that same energy for commenting here....

49. Big ups to the random white girl who thought it was cool to sneak up behind me and run her crustaceous ass fingers through my dreads

50. Expressed to someone that I didn't think Steven Spielberg should be making movies about women, black people, and POC and was called "aggressive" and "intimidating"

51. I've been confused for literally every other black dude with dreads at the school

52. Let's not forget about all the white people who choose to only date/hookup with black people and think that shit is okay.

53. Told my ex that I got called an oreo in middle school a lot and that it still sort of haunts my thoughts, and then he would often make fun of me for it.

54. I was friends with this one white girl who would always say I “looked SO different” whenever I changed my hairstyle, but nothing even relatively positive other than that. I also noticed she would implement aspects of my black style, like big hoops, bandanas, braids, etc into her own. This bothered me because white people perceived hoops and

bandanas as “ghetto” up until the late 2010s, but since, those things have been gentrified and is now recognized as gay culture.

55. I’ve too often heard and been the subject of white women openly having “jungle fever.”

56. Maggie Ferguson should’ve been fired a LONG time ago.

57. A few months into my freshman year, there was a room a few floors below where I lived that had a sign on it that said “whites only.” Naturally, my friends and I caught wind of this and were less than pleased. Because we wanted to be adults who were direct (at 18... which we can now all agree is still a child) we went to the room to confront the guys that lived there. Some of us had only heard about this sign from our friends so we went as a group of about 4 to check it out. 3/4 of us were Black girls. The one friend in our group who wasn’t black (but a latinx person of color) knocked on the door to get answers. The next day we were being called in to talk to administrators for “scaring” the guys that lived there who “found” the sign. We never actually talked to the boys. Also, 4 of us were outside their doors, about 8 of us were called in to talk to the multicultural center. The friend who knocked wasn’t even one of them initially. The boys said they saw a group of Black girls, one of whom was wearing a head wrap, and they assumed who we were based on that description. The whole situation ended by us being told that the year before

they did a segregation “simulation,” and the boys must have found the sign. This is a suppressed memory that I’ve kept down since the Fall of 2013. I thought by assimilating, I would thrive at the college. While we all are quite successful, we were not supported at that time, and that is not okay. Glad to see one of those “whites only” kids supporting BLM now. This post isn’t about the ignorance of those stupid teens. It’s about the lack of support from the school at the time, and the multicultural center not wanting to make noise and shake the system for us.

58. We all meet a bunch of people during Orientation. Raise your hand if you remembered everyone’s names! Kudos to you if you did! Unfortunately, I didn’t and this kid ended up on my floor a few days after I met him and was very angry that I didn’t know his name. As a result of my forgetting his name, he spat at me and called me a nig\*er, then turned at my friend and I as he was leaving and called us nig\*ers. He never finished his time at Emerson because he left due to “anger issues.” I would have loved for my concerns with Gabe to be addressed before he left though, instead many said he was “German” so it was different. I was 17 at the time and just wanted my mom after it happened. My friend and I still remember this like it’s a burn on our skin that won’t heal.

59. Having to explain to the castle staff that Black Face is wrong... they’ve come a long way and are unlearning and learning each year. Can’t say the same for the town of Well. Black students need to be warned what they will see before going to Europe. And supported. (I

do believe they have sense tried to make this better by moving the former multi cultural directing from be Boston Campus)

60. When people forget you're "black" and you're in a sorority and you hear them talk about diversity as if it's about numbers & they basically say black members can't come in unless they can code switch.

61. Hearing people laugh about the fact that EBONI exists and make jokes about what would happen if they showed up.... maybe if you had, you wouldn't just now be "waking up to racism" in 2020

62. First year I took my white roommate to a party. She was a lightweight so I felt like I had to take care of her and tried to not leave her alone. I made her wait outside of the bathroom while I was in it and when I walked out she screamed "NI\*\*ER" at the top of her lungs while singing along to a song. (The song said "ni\*\*a", no hard r, and even so, she shouldn't have said it.) I wanted to leave her but I'm a good person who wouldn't leave a drunk person at a party where she doesn't know anyone else. Since then she has told me stories about racist things her family has done/said and didn't stop until I told her it was in bad taste to do so. She kept bringing up how she was in productions of "In The Heights" and "The Wiz" as if it was funny even after after I told her to stop taking

about it. I think she thought I was joking...about racism?? I continued living with her bc I needed to but our relationship has/will never be the same. She hasn't even apologized, while sober, about it even after being confronted. She just said she would "do better".

63. one time, outside of piano row, this white girl came up to me excitedly screaming the name of one of my Black friends—who i look nothing like—and when she realized it wasn't me (i literally do not know her) she ran away. also, i see certain white people supporting BLM and trying to speak up but they're the ones who do constant microaggressions (scared of Black homeless people, scared of Black men in hoodies, etc etc) so it's funny to see them in the comments of these posts sometimes. also, i want most of u white people to know that your aesthetic (hoops, long nails, headscarves, etc) would not exist if it weren't for Black women. so remember that shit.

64. In my honors seminars this year I was the only black person in my class. The lack of diversity in the honors program feels alienating.

65. Every single time I change my hairstyle, all of a sudden, none of my white "friends" recognize me. I'll be walking in the street and I'll wave to ppl and theyll walk past me and give me weird looks as if me changing my hair changes my face. Like ??? I didnt get plastic surgery, I just got different colored braids or wore my Afro. Lol its actually so

stupid that its funny. Some of them will see me later and be like “omg im so sorry I didnt recognize you earlier” 😬like damn I didnt know I had shapeshifting powers. Or if I go to studio, the white girls will be like “omg I love your hair did you cut it/it grew so quick!” and idk its not offensive per se, but its just annoying. Yall steal from our culture all the time and cant do the bare minimum research of how our hair works. And I dont assume every white/non-black poc is not themselves bc they got a haircut. Like what? I either feel invisible or hyper-visible(if thats a word). Its weird.

66. One time, while walking into school with my white boyfriend (who doesn't go to Emerson) a security guard asked if he could bring out his ID to sign me in as a guest. I have swiped into the building by that guard before.
67. Let's talk about how the DIY Boston indie music scene is racist, exclusive, white as hell, and fulllll of sexual abuse apologists.
68. I'm an incoming poc transfer student at Emerson college and I just wanted to thank whoever runs this page and also my future peers/alumni for sharing your experiences. I knew going into Emerson, I would be in the minority but hearing these acts of racism, microaggressions, and stereotyping is extremely disturbing and causes some anxiety

being an incoming student. I hope Emerson and it's students do better in how they treat their poc peers and move forward to shine a light on these voices.

69. Unpopular opinion: POC pre-orientation is almost more alienating for those students. I didn't think I needed more acclimation time than anyone else. I get it for international students but not for me. Maybe I misunderstood the purpose though.

70. The amount of time I've lied about getting my hair cut because of shrinkage... like I'm too tired of explaining that after the first day I wash my hair it's way curlier and therefore shorter, and when I DO explain this everyone is so astonished and confused. Not all hair is white hair lmao

71. Non-Black person here. Freshman year, my first friend said she did stand up comedy. She invited us to a show in the multipurpose room in piano row. During the show, this white guy gets up to do his set. He is swaying and slurring his words (likely drunk) and keeps saying he isn't prepared for his new jokes, but he has a list of Black jokes ready to go. He proceeds to ask the audience "are there any n\*\*\*\*rs here?" There was one Black woman in the audience (she was the only Black person in the audience) and she stood up and said "yeah I'm right here, are you going to say that again to my face?" And the "comedian's"

response was “oh sorry I couldn’t see you without the lights on since you’re so dark.” A few people laughed. More people booed him off stage.

72. freshman year in the VMA foundations class they gave us one task - create a 5 min short film of whatever you want.... one group did a silent film with a white blonde girl in blackface and had her perform as a stereotypical minstrel role..... the white professor was ok with this, and the group argued with the 2 Black kids in class that they were allowed to make the film since they said it was satire

73. [Removed]

74. Bobbie Pearce is an evvy nominated standup who frequently said the n word all of freshman year and her friends are complicit in allowing her to do so and laughing along. Why are we still protecting this person and their stand up/tik tok career?

75. I’m a non-black poc in the class of ‘24. We haven’t even stepped foot on campus yet, so it’s funny how a member of the class of ‘24 was able to get away w making a joke about loving blackface in a public group chat and faced little to no backlash from his friends

(who are now posting BLM stuff on their stories.) Being an ally goes beyond performative activism. It also means holding people personally accountable.

76. An international student from China was very comfortable saying the n word around me and also made stereotypical comments about black people towards me

77. I was happy that my African American History class was actually taught by a black professor. Though it was easily my most uncomfortable class. The peak being when we did a creative exercise where the prof. wanted everyone to write one sentence on what the first thing we would do as a free slave. One sentence! And she said there were no right or wrong answers, and everyone had to one-by-one present their answer to the class. The first person goes and says her name, and the prof. asks if that was her slave name. I gasped and was shocked by that. Some people made up names and some people chose to kinda of ignore the question and just say their real name. Afterwards the prof. continued to ask everyone else the same thing and where they were from, to which the answer had to be somewhere along the east coast (i.e. Georgia, the Carolinas, etc.). Beyond that most people had normal answers like learning hobbies and such. But when it came to the white boys in the class the first things they would do upon being a free slave where violence towards whites, and one of the guys had a full on page describing everything he would do and how he would do it. They were the only ones that wanted violence upon freedom.

And I can't stop thinking about how ofc they would say that because white males aren't and haven't really been oppressed.

78. Coming to Emerson, I was excited to work with likeminded people to create content. As a VMA, whenever I work with white students my ideas are disregarded and it's as if I'm invisible, despite having good ideas. Although it's not outwardly, the silence met with these contributions show that no matter how creative and valid, POC students' ideas are always taken with a grain of salt. I'd like to hope they don't do it on purpose, but white Emerson students please take note on how you act with your white team members vs. the POC ones and do better. We're all here to create and all of our artistic ideas should be considered and respected.

79. Can we talk about how incredibly toxic (aside from being mostly white) the whole TV studio crowd is? Being one of the reasons I chose Emerson, I was extremely disappointed to find that if you weren't part of that "in-crowd" you basically meant nothing to them and were treated as an outsider. In my four years at Emerson I truly don't remember seeing any Black people in the TV studios aside from talent, and I think I now understand why

80. Listen there was this white girl in the class of 23 who says she hates and wouldn't date Black men because she's scared of their big dicks and I was like I—

81. I, a black woman, spent an hour explaining to a white boy that my hair is coily and his isn't. I had to recruit two of my black friends to help with this conversation but he insisted that we didn't know what we were talking about. I literally pulled up pictures but gave up eventually.

82. As a black student, I really do not support the negativity surrounding this page. Emerson is no perfect, but it can be better, and it WILL be better. We MUST do better. It is one thing to call each other out, but it's another to hold each other accountable and make change. Confront your peers when you find something wrong, especially if they are white. Allyship is more than performance activism, and a lot more than "being friends with black people." I have seen first hand people trying to work and be better. If you are guilty reading any of the posts on this page, that means you, my friend, are the problem.

83. I was at a get together playing a game with the sports team i was on. The girl whose apartment we were in said "I'm from the bay area, If I go up to a black person and say what up my n\*gga, then no one will say anything." everyone looked at me because I was the only black person on the team. Her boyfriend and now fiancé said multiple racist

things to me the same night. He told me he was revoking my black card because I didn't listen to a band he liked. When I asked if there was anymore lemonade he said "no. and sorry no we don't have kool-aid." and I responded "that was racist" and he said "good i'm glad you're getting the point". He also said multiple other things but I've blocked them out of my memory tbh. The girl acted like nothing happened the next day at practice. She was a grad student at the time and ended up working on a show with me the next semester. She has graduated with a minor in multicultural education or some shit... bull

84. The nickname that so many frat brothers slyly called me. "Mon-n\*\*\*er" a play off of my name, Monica, mixed with the N word. Subtle. This is just one example of the fact that I pass as white. Would they have called a darker skinned classmate the same nickname? Or did they think it was just okay to do it with me because it was assumed that I wouldn't get offended?

85. the amount of times classmates "asked" to touch my hair while already doing so or questioned why i didn't just straighten my curls since that would probably be "so much easier to manage" is a lot to look back on. also, as a mixed woman with many curl patterns, being cast in many shows with Emerson Stage where the Hair team absolutely traumatized and ruined my curls because of their complete lack of knowledge on different hair types.

86. Hi, another non-POC. I hope that non-POCs see this account as a way of amplifying black voices/hearing black experiences AND as an educational tool moving forward. I can guarantee that most white people (I include myself in this) have either directly been a part of/can see their actions displayed in at least one post on this account. I don't see it as people "calling out" each other, but rather the hope on behalf of Black students that we can take what we've learned from our actions and APPLY them in the future.

87. I'm an extremely light skinned mixed person, resulting in the fact that most people don't think I'm Black until I show them a photo of my parents. Emersonians love to play the "oooooh what race is she" game with me, and I've gotten to hear all the racist shit people say when they don't think a Black person is in the room. I once heard a professor say that Black people were by default more stupid than white people. I had a class where a student went on a tirade about how AAVE wasn't real, and that books and newspaper articles should only be published in "American English." But my *favorite* memory was Freshman year when I came back to my dorm from a walk in the rain. My hair gets pretty curly in humidity, and it was fluffed up pretty big. One of my suitemates watched me walk in and commented "heyyyyy your Black is showing!" Classy.

88. I don't know if it's just me who feels this way... But comparing what black people have to go through in America with other groups doesn't feel right to me. I've heard a lot of white people try to relate with me because they are part of the LGBTQ community and have experienced discrimination from homophobia and transphobia. I acknowledge that you have experienced a lot of discrimination, but I'm here to tell you right now that it is not the same, not even remotely close matter of fact. White members of the LGBTQ community have an extreme amount of privilege over black members of the LGBTQ community and I haven't really heard anybody talk about that. When speaking on feminism, I have seen the same thing as black feminists have been shut out and have lacked a voice in comparison to feminists who are white. Do you know what it is like to have to dress a certain way in order to not be looked at like a thug or be judged? I've seen many white women walk around campus with red bandanas on their heads. I can't do that. Do you know what it is like to have to have a certain hairstyle that is not what you like in order to be accepted by American society and then see someone appropriate those same hairstyles you got criticized for and be praised? Do you know what it's like to have people follow you in a store because they think that you are stealing just because you are black? Do you know what it is like for people around you to think that the only reason why you got accepted to college is because of affirmative action when white women have benefited off it the most? I can keep going. The point is that you don't and you never will know what it is like to be black in America. Stop with the comparisons and let us lead and have our own voices.

89. When I took down my braids for the first time during freshman year, one of the dh workers (I don't remember his name) came up to me and said I should've kept the braids in bc it looked better on me (I had my afro out). I was so shocked because he was always so nice. I think non black people really don't understand that you can't just go up to someone and say something like that. y'all need to do better.

90. [removed]

91. As a fellow black woman, I agree with #88 fully and people must talk about this. Being black is such a unique type of discrimination as the system has been built to disadvantage us for hundreds of years. The intersectionality of being black and a woman, black and LGBTQ+, etc. is rarely talked about. When you are black, you are more disadvantaged than the people of the other communities or groups you belong to. To point out the inability to wear red bandanas part: I actually have an experience with this. I was walking down the street from the CVS and I had a red bandana on. A white woman near me stared at me in fright then scurried away as if I was a criminal. I got several more looks. I became fearful and took it off for the rest of the day when I got back to my dorm, despite being proud of the outfit I so carefully put together. White people will never know how that feels. Black feminism, black LGBTQ+ rights, black disabled rights need to be supported because although every single marginalized community faces discrimination (which everyone must acknowledge), black people are continuously unprotected.

92. I don't know if you guys saw the Instagram live with that kid from Emerson 24' confessing about the comments he made about black face and apologizing... For those who saw it, what did you guys think about that? Did the apology seem sincere or not? Is cancel culture needed or is it better to talk it out with someone and explain to them the harm that they caused and teach them what they can do to help?

93. [Removed]

94. [Removed]

95. Nonblack POC here, can someone PLEASE tell 90% of Emersonians that being an art student, playacting poverty and co-opting social justice language to sound woke doesn't make you any less bigoted, and it sure as fuck doesn't make you marginalized

96. I submitted a essay for my Intro to Lit Studies class which featured works by famous black poets such as Audre Lorde, James Baldwin and Maya Angelou only to have the professor tell me that my readings of their works were pointless and didn't make any

sense. Since he was a white straight man I don't know how my view as a gay black man was trumped.

97. As a white ally, I wish those in my position would recognize that we are not immune to making mistakes. I've seen so many people refuse to admit to microaggressions and subtle acts of racism, even during protests, because they don't want to compromise their supposed support/ego. I myself have been guilty of this. Everyone needs to accept that there is ALWAYS more to learn. Nobody is immune from error, and accepting and working to correct misbehavior is the only way to genuinely change it.

98. if you're a white guy maybe it's not a good idea to rate races and say you'd date less than 1% of black girls lmao

99. My sophomore year, I and another black girl were in a group of two other students to shoot a short video for one of the music orgs. All of us were there to work behind the camera. A nonblack POC (Asian) told us that it would be best if I and the other black girl volunteered to be in front of the camera. When we asked why, he said that "black people are good at performing and dancing", that it was what we "were good at". The crazy thing is that I could tell he didn't mean to be malicious. But I couldn't put my finger on why it made me feel so uncomfortable at the moment. Black people aren't some objects

made to entertain you. I don't know, it was just dehumanizing. There's more experiences I've faced worse than that to be honest, but eventually it's like you suppress it so it's difficult to remember.

100. i lost a fair amount of weight the summer going into my junior year. when i came back, my curves were all the more noticeable. i was feeling confident and had bought a whole new wardrobe. a boy that i had a crush on freshman year but whom was always too "shy" to ever voice his reciprocated feelings for me, saw me outside of LB one of the first days back on campus junior year. he came up to me from behind on the street under the scaffolding while i was on the phone and held firmly onto my now, more defined hips. he started to speak before i was even able to turn around and said "damn girl! i knew you were Black but THIS is what i was waiting for. you look good thick". i turned around and nodded, completely shocked by the encounter. this is a boy that had never touched me outside of acting class exercises or crowded frat parties. i had always had an inkling that he felt the way i used to but never took him for an ignorant asshole until that moment outside of LB. i could never look at him the same after that. he also never looked at me the same. before, i felt barely noticed. now, i couldn't stop seeing him staring me down.

101. how about that time during Hell Week of pledging my sorority that my sisters demanded i straighten my kinky curls for the week to look uniform with my other pledge

sisters? that didn't go over well. i went in to full on panic attack mode and refused.  
thankfully, they finally saw my point.

102. I'm going into Emerson as a freshman and I chose the school because its supposed to be diverse. Being in a diverse college is so important to me because I went to a majority white high school in the south and it was EXTREMELY hard. Now the closer we get to move in day the more stories I hear about the school and the people in it and I'm scared cause i don't want a repeat of high school. Don't Know if I made the right choice and if I'm gonna be stuck for the next 4 years

103. [Removed]

104. Are we ever going to talk about the girl who literally brought all of her friends to visit her PLANTATION for spring break.... the plantation thats been in her family for years... and they literally were hanging out there and taking pics... as if black people weren't enslaved there...

105. Black students account for roughly 15% of the national collegiate student population but only account for less than 5% of Emerson's student population. This account would

not over a 100 posts from past, current and incoming students if there wasn't a serious problem at hand. It is evident that there is a severe discord between how black students should be accepted and treated at Emerson College versus the reality black students find themselves facing on a daily basis. For non-black allies, I appreciate your intentions but telling incoming students that they will be ok based off your own personal experience is misleading because it does not reflect what it's like to be black at Emerson College. Incoming black students have every right to be concerned, as if college itself wasn't an already intimidating trial. I'm sure allies following this account want to see positive change take place on and off campus but please understand that without recognizing the tremendous severity of the problem (which you may be a part of) and it's deep rooted foundations, that change will never take place. It's not enough to think that what has happened, is happening and will happen again is something wrong, also think of why it happens and who allows it happen. So I strongly suggest you begin considering perspectives that exist outside your immediate personal narratives. Also I wish you all safety during this pandemic.

106. You can count the new comedic arts majors of color every year on one hand.

107. [Removed]

108. Do you think there's a feedback loop happening with few POC students enrolled at Emerson so few POC perspective students apply or enroll. So it constantly keeps the percents low? If more POC students enrolled, there might be more demand for support from the staff and faculty?

109. i'm sorry it takes you 4 more minutes to do your jobs lighting/make-up designers...

110. Hi there! I am not a Black student, but I thought this was an important thing to share for the film department. After reading a post about how it takes just a few more minutes to light Black talent, as well as to do makeup so that it reads on camera, I wanted to say that Emerson faculty don't take the time to teach about these things. Cameras are one of the many things made for white people, as are most types of film for those using film stock. The only thing I learned in class at Emerson about how to light Black talent was from the only Black student in my foundations class. She did an awesome presentation on it, and my professor didn't expand the conversation beyond her presentation, even after HE POINTED OUT that it is something we need to talk more about in film school

111. In most VMA classes we are required to watch more racist and anti-black films (such as movies with black face/racial stereotypes or Birth of a Nation) than films that are made by black people. Our curriculum is very white washed and Westernized. Unless you take

specific classes that are dedicated to BIPOC filmmakers, you will probably only be educated on white filmmakers, which creates a serious gap in our education and contributes to racism in the film industry.

112. Cass Tunick who teaches movement consistently mixed up all of the black students' names in the class. She wouldn't even pick up on it half the time

113. As a white passing man, I have been privy to many of the “unguarded” moments of white students at Emerson. I’ve heard people talk about race dismissively, and with a lack of understanding of empathy. After witnessing these conversations, I want everyone reading this (but specifically white people), that race goes WAY beyond saying racial slurs, asking to touch a black person's hair, or any specific instances (not to minimize the harm of these moments though. Don’t do that shit.) Racism is internalized, meaning that there is work that everyone has to do within themselves to fight against their unconscious bias and their unguarded behavior. We live in a society (the US specifically, I can’t speak to other nations and cultures) that has socialized racism in people from a disturbingly young age. Whether or not it is what you want to believe or a world in which you want to live, that is the reality of what all of us have been taught. So yes, watch 13th on Netflix. Put some Audre Lorde, Bell Hooks and Angela Davis on your IG story. Follow this page to read what black students and other students of color have to say about the community

you share. But it needs to be known that there is a lot of work that everyone, myself included, needs to do within themselves for this movement to truly go forward.

114. I had high hopes for Emerson, especially coming into the college as a Black man became president. Unfortunately like most institutions, Black students were either tokens for diversity or were “divisive” for speaking out about racism on campus. [...] did little to nothing to help Black students there - he didn’t even support EBONI, an org dedicated for Black students; so if you complained about him - you too were seen as divisive. Emerson was a classist, racist learning environment that gaslit Black students on the regular. Emerson thrives as being this liberal utopia in the heart of Boston, but in actuality most of the students and professors don’t understand intersectionality.

115. there was a white kid in my intro to college writing class and we were discussing a reading by June Jordan about “Black English” and the origins of Ebonics. the kid said that he felt that he “didn’t see an issue” as a white boy to speak using Ebonics and he even went as far and said it was justifiable to use the n-word as a “term of endearment” to his black friends. There was this huge awkward silence after he said this, and so many people were visibly uncomfortable, plus like the teacher didn’t really do/say anything and just like danced around it and continued the discussion.

116. [Removed]

117. last semester, my racist roommates used her white girl tears to garner sympathy from my white ra and white & white passing suitemates and blame our roommates issues solely on me. and to make matters worse, she continued to work with me on the beacon despite us having a so called no tolerance racism policy. till this day, I never once received an apology.

118. i didn't even know if i wanted to submit bc i have little to no hope in emerson as a community and will be transferring. but the year i had at emerson was literally one of the worst of my lives i've never experienced so much overt and "lowkey" racism. almost everyone is white, racist, with 1 black friend max and a love of using AAVE. y'all meme and support unabashedly a black president who takes a ridiculously high salary and who does nothing to retain or increase black students, who truly doesn't care abt diversity. i guess you all have that last bit in common with him. the racial isolation is draining and nonblack people who tried to understand my experience couldn't empathize beyond "dang:/ no other black ppl in ur classes must be hard". i wish everyone black at emerson the best and i hope y'all push through and get the best of ur education.

119. During my first Emstage show at Emerson (it was a majority black cast) I saw that they were putting up promotional posters around campus. And I noticed the only people on the posters were black theatre students who had already graduated. They weren't even the show. I'm assuming a photographer didn't have time to take photos during our rehearsals and they decided the best option was just to use other black people.

120. Let us never forget that there was a production of For Colored Girls with white people in the cast.