

Being an Ally
5/4/2019
First Church of Jamaica Plain

“Once you see, you can’t not see.”

“You don’t know what you don’t know.”

Tips:

1. Don’t call the police unless your life is in danger.
2. Study whiteness and the history behind whiteness in this country. Resources: the course [White People Challenging Racism](#) and [The White Privilege Conference](#)
3. Lower your volume
4. Don’t tone police (study other-ness) - emotions look different in different cultures; is something sticking out *just* because it’s different?
5. Train your kids that “what?” is not a response to calling their name. Put titles in front of names.
6. Don’t assume a language barrier
7. Turn your question into a compliment and then follow up with a question. Instead of “Where are you from?” Say, “I’m amazed by your ability to speak more than one language fluently.”
8. Don’t be rude! Say excuse me, please and thank you, and step out of the way
9. Individual vs community - your tribe is speaking for you (we all compartmentalize)
10. Get people’s names right/the importance of names in communities of color - what your name means and the power behind it
11. Don’t give the white glare. Smile and say hello
12. Don’t compete in suffering
13. Don’t touch or ask to touch our hair. Don’t judge black hair.
14. Get called on your shit and then re-engage / “I am sorry and I will do better.”
15. Watch your compliments - if the person were white, would you still say it? (articulate, well-spoken, etc.)
16. Demand that cultural competence be taught in schools and to faculty and staff
17. Demand that your kids be taught the truth about the history of this country