1. **Race is a modern idea.** Ancient societies, like the Greeks, didn't divide people according to physical distinctions, but by religion, status, class, even language. The English language didn't even have the word 'race' until 1508.

2. **Race has no genetic basis.** No characteristic, trait or gene distinguishes all the members of one so-called race from all the members of another.

3. **Human subspecies don't exist.** Unlike many animals, modern humans simply haven't been around long enough or isolated enough to evolve into separate subspecies or races. Despite surface appearances, we are one of the most similar of all species.

4. **Skin color really is only skin deep.** Most traits are inherited independently from one another. The genes influencing skin color have nothing to do with the genes influencing hair form, eye shape, musical talent, athletic ability or intelligence.

5. **Most human variations are found within "races".** Of the small amount of total human genetic variation, 85% exists within any local population, be they Italians, Koreans or Cherokees.

6. **Slavery predates race.** Throughout much of history, societies have enslaved others as a result of conquest, war or debt, but not because of physical characteristics or a belief in natural inferiority. United States’ Chattel Slavery was the first slave system where all the slaves shared similar physical characteristics.

7. **Concepts of race and freedom evolved together.** The United States was founded on the radical new principle that “All men are created equal”, therefore, all had the right to freedom. But our early economy was based largely on slavery. The new idea of race helped protect the economy by explaining why some people could be denied the rights and freedoms that others took for granted.

8. **Race justified social inequalities as natural.** As the race idea evolved, white superiority justified slavery as well as the extermination of Indians, exclusion of Asian immigrants, and the taking of Mexican lands.

9. **Race isn't biological, but racism is still real.** Race is a powerful social idea that gives people different access to resources. Our government and institutions disproportionately advantage and channel wealth, power, and resources to white people. This affects everyone, whether we are aware of it or not.

10. **Colorblindness will not end racism.** Pretending race doesn’t exist is not the same as creating equality. Race is more than stereotypes and individual prejudice. To address racism, we need to identify and remedy social policies and institutional practices that advantage some groups at the expense of others.

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