



Welcome to the Civic Lab!

This resource page includes conversation starters and materials for exploring Black Lives Matter.

Conversation Questions

1. What does the statement “Black Lives Matter” mean to you?
2. How is the statement “Black Lives Matter” different from “All Lives Matter”?
3. Do black lives matter in Skokie? What barriers or inequalities exist locally?
4. What can you do to reduce racism in Skokie?
5. Family question: Have you ever been treated differently than others because of how you look?

Key Definitions

These definitions are from *Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary*:

- *Racism* – noun, poor treatment of or violence against people because of their race; noun, the belief that some races of people are better than others
- *Power* – noun, the ability or right to control people or things
- *Privilege* – noun, a right or benefit that is given to some people and not to others

Core Resources

These items were selected by our librarians as core resources for the Civic Lab.

For adults:

- *Citizen: An American Lyric* by Claudia Rankine
- *Fruitvale Station* from The Weinstein Company

For young adults:

- *Race to Incarcerate: A Graphic Retelling* by Sabrina Jones and Marc Mauer
- *How Long Will I Cry? Voices of Youth Violence* edited by Miles Harvey



The Civic Lab at Skokie Public Library offers information and thought-provoking activities to support dialogue and engagement on issues that affect our community.

For children and families:

- *I, Too, Am America* by Langston Hughes
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia

Additional Resources

These library materials are excellent choices for further exploration.

For adults:

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
- *Long Division* by Kiese Laymon
- *Invisible Man, Got the Whole World Watching: A Young Black Man's Education* by Mychal Denzel Smith

For young adults:

- *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- *March* by John Lewis and Andrew Audin
- *How It Went Down* by Kekla Magoon
- *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

For children and families:

- *Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me* by Daniel Beaty
- *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965* by Jonah Winter
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson