

## Handout A

### Reflecting on Colourblind Language & Racism

In this exercise, you will analyze colorblind language. Colorblind racism often manifests itself in specific language styles that generally allow White people to “talk nasty about minorities without sounding racist” (Bonilla-Silva 2010).

Have you ever heard a person say or do any of the following?

- “I’m not prejudiced, but . . .” (followed by a prejudiced statement)
- “Some of my best friends are . . .” (after making a prejudiced statement about people in the group the person’s “best friends” belong to)
- “I’m not [Black], so I don’t know” (followed by a prejudiced statement)
- “Yes, but couldn’t that just be due to (social class, poverty, or any other factor that isn’t race)?”
- Stutter, take awkward lengthy pauses, repeat themselves, say um or ah a lot, or simply be incoherent when talking about race

**Reflect on one of the times you have heard (or heard of) someone saying or doing one of these things. Briefly write down the story and then answer the following questions:**

- 1. Who was part of the interaction?**
- 2. Why do you think the person said what they did?**
- 3. How might these language choices affect the possibility of honest conversation about race?**