

Theoretical Context: Critical Race Theory

The Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a framework that explains how racism is systemically ingrained in every aspect of life. Ackerman-Barger & Hummel (2015), found that “Storytelling is fundamental to CRT and may serve as a catalyst for conversation and change by allowing the unseen and unknown to become visible” (p.45).

CRT is a way of exposing the subtle way racial inequities and racism in colleges and universities pervade (Yosso et al., 2009). Race is an overarching factor in the lives of people of color in the U.S., and race is a significant component in education and healthcare, with established inequities for people of color (Ackerman-Barger & Hummel, 2020). Storytelling allows whites to understand the experiences of people of color and can highlight the gaps in equality and fairness (Ackerman-Barger & Hummel, 2020). We can find solutions and create change by telling their experiences within education and uncovering racism and disparities (Ackerman-Barger & Hummel, 2020).

Racism continues to thrive in nursing education, but instead of the once overt acts of racism, there are subtle slights that can be referred to as microaggressions (Ackerman-Barger & Hall, 2015). The idea that race is not an issue, everyone is treated fairly, and denial of racial differences is an act to refute that racism still perpetuates nursing education. Additionally, the narratives that will be explored in this project will help to validate the experiences of minorities to produce change and are grounded in the CRT.