



Glenn Loury: An Independent Mind

Opening Questions

These questions should be given to students for either group discussion or individual responses before they view the slideshow presentation of Glenn Loury. After the presentation, students can be asked to reconsider their original answers.

How can the “voices” and ideas that you are exposed to in your social circles (home, school, friends, faith-based or secular organizations) inform your worldview as an adult?

In what ways has the enterprising spirit of Black America changed in the last 60-75 years? To what extent is educational pursuit critical to an enterprising spirit?

What do a young person’s “heroes” offer that is long-lasting?

How is the value system or overall success of a community impacted if residents have different perspectives regarding individual versus corporate responsibility?

What is the usual reaction of a group (race, gender, age) when someone within that demographic has unpopular political ideals? What is meant by the terms “Uncle Tom” and “sellout”? Is the ostracization of unpopular political opinions fair?

To what extent do a person’s private choices affect their public image? How should we react to local and nationally known “heroes,” whose “fall” is based on a moral choice that some consider negative? What makes some failings more difficult for the public to forgive? How are some people able to reject the choice or behavior of a public figure, yet appreciate the person’s skills or abilities?

In what way does Obama’s election demonstrate views of race in our nation?

Do you think that people tend to make generalizations, whether positive or negative, about people from different backgrounds, social status or age groups than their own? What impact do you think racial bias—whether overt or unconscious—has on incarceration rates?

How do media programs and popular media personalities (whether online, on television, or elsewhere): 1) affect the emotional response of the public? 2) impact civil response to national events? 3) influence trends? 4) influence the worldview of the populous?

How important is free speech in our day? What viewpoints are criticized in your circles? What makes civil—respectful—debate so difficult?