

## ACT Worksheet

**Problem Statement:** I don't agree that schools should end zero tolerance discipline policies. Students should stop breaking the rules and behave so that teachers can teach.

**Affirm:** All our children deserve high quality, public education and well managed classroom environments.

**Counter:** Currently, only about 50% of African-American, Latino and Native students graduate from high school on time.

It has been found that biased discipline, based on subjective infractions is applied disproportionately to students of color and this contributes significantly to poorer educational outcomes. This lack of educational opportunity has many potential long term impacts on the lives of people of color and this hurts all of us in many ways.

Unfortunately, rather than address the policy and practice issues, historically we have blamed the problem on poor families; black, brown and native students.

**Transform:** We could take the opportunity to join with teachers, and parents and students from all walks of life, to remove the subjectivity from practices and implement alternative programs, like restorative justice models, when there are disciplinary challenges. These approaches have been shown to benefit all students. Together we can achieve reform of policies and practices that are needed to make sure that our schools serve all students equitably.

### Now it's your turn -

**Problem Statement:** I know equity is important, but talking about race all the time just makes things worse, and we don't have the time or resources to implement equity practices and strategies anyway.

**Affirm:**

**Counter:**

**Transform:**