

Black Panther Curriculum for Counseling Diverse Populations

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Black Panther was a movie when it hit the box office, it received a lot of great reviews. There were many showings for the movie and even a special showing for Black History Month of 2019. Viewers flocked to the movie by the drove. I will have to admit, I was one of them. My motivation was from the standpoint that I wanted to see if this would be another good movie I could bring into the classroom to aid with my teaching of my Counseling Diverse Populations class.

Once again, it was indeed exciting to spend hours watching the movie, looking at every clip, and figuring out how to best integrate this master piece in my class. Since it was such a popular movie, I was certain many, if not most of my students had already seen the movie.

However, I wanted the students to be able to view the movie through the lens of a therapist. It never fails where students openly confess they needed to see the movie again in order to answer the critical debriefing questions that have been assigned to them. What is unique about the movie Black Panther is that it gives transcultural viewpoints.

The Blank Panther movie originally started as a comic book that was later developed into a movie by Marvel Production Company. Making it the first Marvel movie with an all-black cast, the movie is said to have grossed over 1.1 billion dollars since its debut, domestically it has made over 605.4 million. The movie received numerous awards and nominations. Black Panther was released in theaters on February 16, 2018. In the United States, Black History month is celebrated in the month of February, and whether this played a role or not, it is certainly worth mentioning.

The movies take place in a fictitious country "Wakanda". What makes Wakanda extraordinary is that it's a well-developed technological country, but poses as a third world country operating in isolation. The Wakandans have vibranium, and it is the use of vibranium that gives them the technological advancement.

Here is my curriculum for Black Panther I hope you enjoy it.

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Black Panther, an American superhero film, is based on the Marvel Comic character- Black Panther.

After T'Challa's father dies, he is crowned king of Wakanda. T'Challa's kingship is later challenged by his cousin Killmonger. Killmonger wanted to ignite a global revolution.

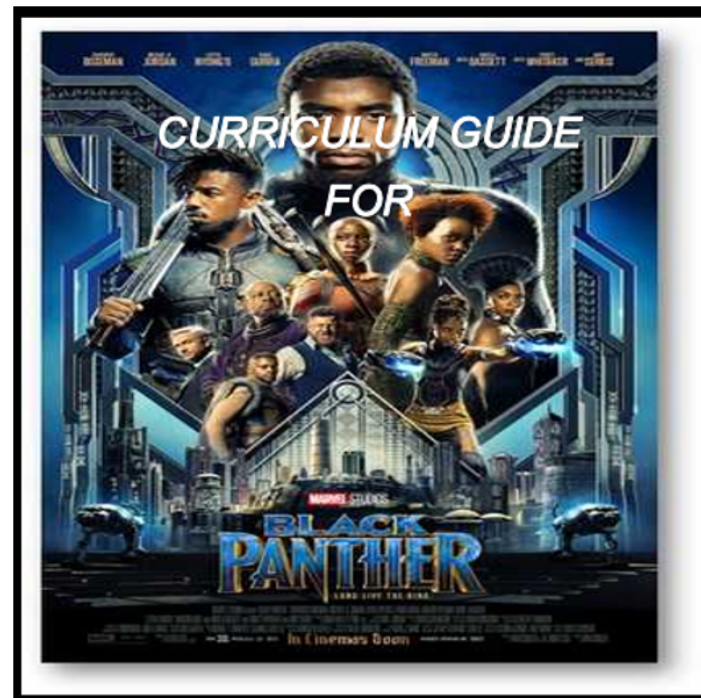


Figure 1

This curriculum has been developed to engage graduate counseling students who are enrolled in “Counseling Diverse Populations” take what they have learned in the class and apply it to the movie through the eyes of a culturally diverse counselor.

Compiled by: DR. Linda J. M. holloway

1. Define the following terms and give example(s) of how the terms relate to the movie.

- Acculturation
- Assimilation
- Colonizer
- Colonialism
- Tribes
- Extended Family
- Nuclear Family

- Cultural Humility
- Etic
- Emic
- Micro Invalidation
- Worldview
- Paralanguage
- Proxemics
- Kinesics
- High Context Communication
- Low Context Communication
- Post-Traumatic Slavery Syndrome
- Intersectionality
- Metaphysical
- Spirituality/Religion
- Indigenous Healing
- Mana Musa
- Genocide
- Afrofuturism
- Diaspora
- Racial Battle Fatigue
- Racial Trauma
- Pan Americanism

2. In your own words, describe why you think the movie “Black Panther” was so important to the Black community?



Figure 2



Figure 3

3. Do Black Superheroes matter? Why or why not?
4. Pick five characters you liked most and explain why you chose them.
5. Pick your five least liked characters and explain why you chose them.
6. Is there anybody in the movie whom you can identify with? If so, explain why or why not?
7. Explain ways in which diversity was represented in this movie on local and global levels.
8. Are there any similarities to the movie the 'Black Panther' and the organization "Black Panther?" Be sure to explain your answer thoroughly.
9. What leadership attributes did T'Challa display and why were they significant? Are there any qualities you would like to have seen him display? Explain.
10. How would you describe Killmonger's leadership style? What impact did his culture and military training have on leadership skills?
11. How was violence illustrated in this movie? How would you compare it to Black on Black crimes in the Black community?
12. Compare and contrast T'Challa and Killmonger characters.



Figure 4

13. The following individuals are seeking counseling from you. I want you to establish a psychosocial history on each client. Develop a treatment plan and explain what theoretical framework you will use and why.

- T'Challa

- Nakia
- Ulysses Klaue
- Killmonger
- Ramonda

14. What are your thoughts about King T'Chaka's brother N'Jobu?
15. How would you describe King T'Chaka and his relationship with his son?
16. What do you think T'Chaka meant when he told his son "you are a good man, not always good for a king?"
17. Wakanda has this precious resource vibranium. Compare that to other countries in Africa today with precious resources. Be sure to talk about the Congo in your answer and what resource they have that is being used around the world.



Figure 5

18. Describe Shuri, T'Challa's sister's role in the movie. Relate this to how you see women's progress in the area of STEM. What exactly is STEM and how impactful has that been?
19. How would you describe love exemplified in this movie between men and women? Relate that to Black love in the current society.
20. After having viewed this movie, what take home points can we implement to improve our world today?
21. If you had the opportunity to rewrite portions of this movie, which portion would you rewrite and why?



Figure 6

22. What role did CIA Ross play in the movie? Did you see him as the great White Hope? Why or why not?
23. What is the role of the CIA? Can you cite any cases where the CIA actually supported Africa? Can you provide examples where the CIA has been accused of sabotaging Africa or the people of Africa?
24. What is so uniquely special about the country of Wakanda?
25. Is there anything you would change about the country of Wakanda? Why or why not?
26. W.E.B. Dubious spoke about the talented tenth. What exactly did he mean by this and how did you see this being depicted in this movie?



Figure 7

27. Taking a look at William Cross's Black Identity Scale, what stage would you say Killmonger represents? Please explain your answer in detail.
28. W.E.B. Dubious talked about African-Americans waring between two souls, that of an African and that of an American. What exactly did he mean by this and how did you see this demonstrated in the movie?
29. Who and what role did the Dora Milaje play in the movie?
30. Discuss some women warrior roles in the continent of Africa as well as the United States. Compare those roles to the women warriors in the movie.
31. If you had the opportunity to create your own Wakanda country, what exactly would it look like and why?
32. What impact did colonialism have on the African Continent? Were there any advantages? Why or why not?
33. Are there any countries in Africa that did not experience colonialism? Compare and contrast them to those that did.



Figure 8

34. What are lip plates? How are they used in Africa?
35. What role does the headdress play in Africa?
36. Talk about what role masks, neck rings, hairstyles, robes, and blankets play in Africa.
37. What role did the women play in Black Panther?
38. Are there women in Africa who wear their head bald? Discuss this culture.

39. What roles does tribal markings play in Africa?
40. Are there any characters in this movie you would remove? If so, why?
41. Are there any characters you would add to the movie? If so, why or why not?
42. Killmonger made the following statement. "Bury me in the ocean with my ancestors that jump from the ship because they knew death was better than bondage". Explain in detail what you think he was actually saying. Can you relate to this? Why or why not?
43. How would you describe the current relationship among Africans and African-Americans? What help or hurt these relationships?
44. Who is Fela Kati? Speak on how you think his music could have been used as the sound track for this movie (i.e. Colonial Mentality, Sorrow Tears and Blood and Teacher Don't Teach Me Nonsense).
45. What exactly is meant by divide and conquer when it comes to the African community? Did you see this illustrated in the movie? If so, explain?
46. There is a scene in the movie where T'Challa is sitting on the throne. Compare that picture to Huey P. Newton picture where he is seated in a wicker chair.
47. What roles does the men play in this movie? Compare those to roles to the men in today's African-American society.
48. List any macroaggressions you saw in this movie.
49. What was your perception of the Jabari Tribe? What about when the leader was woofing like an ape? What and why did people compare Black people to apes? Cite examples of when this has taken place.



Figure 9

50. Were you pleased with how the movie ended? If so, why or why not? If you had the opportunity to write another ending, what would it look like and why?
51. You have been contacted by Marvel Studios to assist with directing Black Panther II. What advice would you give them and why?



Figure 10

Recommended Readings

1. Solomon Gary. "Real Therapy: How Movies Inspire You to Overcome Life's Problems". Aslan publishing Fairfield, CT (2001).
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