

What is R.A.W?

R.A.W. stands for Ramblers Analyzing Whiteness – a pilot program at Loyola University Chicago that started in 2014 and lasted for four consecutive years. R.A.W. is a seven-part cohort-based workshop series that empowers students to support each other as they explore and analyze whiteness.

R.A.W. was designed to be a space for self-identified white or multiracial undergraduate and graduate students to engage in dialogue and action regarding their own racial identity on Loyola's campus. The purpose was for multiracial and white-identified individuals to examine what it means to be fully or partly white, to critically reflect on themselves and their actions, and to work to identify and confront racism in schools, in society, and at Loyola University Chicago. The program was designed for those who have:

- A passion for ending racism
- Anger and confusion about institutional racism
- An interest in unpacking internalized racism
- Questions about racial justice that they have been unable to ask

Student Testimonials

“The entire opportunity of being in R.A.W. was a huge learning experience for me, but the StoryCorps action project was exceptionally memorable. I was proud of myself for putting myself in a vulnerable learning position. Being able to show my interview partner, my dad, a little glimpse into what I, as a R.A.W participant, do on a biweekly basis was moving. It felt like I was doing exactly what was needed, sharing my experiences with others.”

“I've always struggled with encountering white family members that hold very different opinions than me, especially regarding race and social injustices. I've had the tendency to either say nothing or be very confrontational, and neither of these approaches has led to anything meaningful. In R.A.W., I learned skills for how to talk about such topics with my family members in a way that will make them want to engage and hopefully learn something.”

“Our discussion also helped me build context around why action is so important. I think that one of the recurring, overarching themes of our entire R.A.W. experience is that talking, especially exclusively with other white people, is not enough. It is essential in the battle towards racial justice that white people put their bodies on the line. We should be careful not to overstep and cross into white savior territory, but we should be willing to make real, consequential sacrifices in the name of equality.”

Key Training Topics

- Workshop 1: Introduction to R.A.W. and Ground Rules for a Brave Space
- Workshop 2: Diversity Foundations, Terminology, Intersectionality, and Centering Racial Identity
- Workshops 3 & 4: Unpacking White Supremacy and White Privilege
- Workshops 5: Identifying and Addressing Racial Microaggressions
- Workshop 6: Effective Accomplice Behavior and Bystander Interventions
- Workshop 7: Reflection of Growth and Goals for Racial Justice
- Action Projects: Students would deliver a racial justice initiative to either the campus or surrounding community to exercise their learning.