

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FORMATION

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN K-12 URBAN EDUCATION

formation.

JOHN SANDY CAMPBELL

DISCUSSION GUIDE

BOOK

Formation is a labor of love that delves into racism and its insidious effects on Black youth. Full of stories written from personal experiences, passion drips from the pen of John Sandy Campbell and love pours from the pages in this raw soul-shattering debut.

Part I
THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

Part II
THE LAMB OF GOD

CHAPTERS

- 1 Pestilence
- 2 War
- 3 Famine
- 4 Death
- 5 Truth
- 6 Redemption
- 7 Freedom

A THANK YOU & NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Thank you for your interest in *Formation*. I wrote *Formation* in the space of four months after much reflection and prayer. This book is the result of a deep spiritual connection I had with God over three days that resulted in my literal death and immediate rebirth.

My hope is that you get something from this text that will be useful in your life and that my conversations with God, that I now freely share with the world, heal your soul.

-John Sandy Campbell



THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

CHAPTERS 1 & 2

1. In Chapter 1, the author compares racism to pestilence and the Black Plague from the 14th century. How do you define racism and do you see racism as a disease and those who engage in this behavior as pathological in nature?
2. Review the section *Marginalization* and the author's definition of marginalization. How do you define it? Have you ever experienced being marginalized at the school you attend or in your work environment? How did it make you feel? Share and discuss.
3. The author reintroduces two terms that describe covert racism (individually and collectively)- *metaracist* and *metaracism*. What do these terms mean and have you been subjected to their form?

4. Black people in America often experience what is known as a "crisis of identity". How do you define or explain this concept and what can Black people do to stay rooted in Blackness while simultaneously navigating white spaces?
5. In Chapter 2, the author uses the well-known term *enemy of the state* and asserts that Black people are "the state" and that white supremacy is "the enemy". What is your take on this reverse usage of that term and why does the author ascribe the word "state" to Black Americans? Do you agree or disagree?



THE FINAL JUDGMENT

CHAPTERS 3 & 4

6. The author briefly covers what *Zero Tolerance Polices* are vis-a-vis Black students and Black people. Share and discuss situations where you have seen different punishments meted out against Black students and Black people that whites are absolved from.

7. In Chapter 3, the author introduces the concept of "dumping", which is her take on Paulo Freire's *The Banking Concept*. Discuss *The Banking Concept* and the similarities or differences to "dumping".

8. Discuss intellectual life vs. intellectual death and what that looks like in a classroom and/or community.

9. The author introduces the concept of the *Tower of Isolation As the Critical Fourth Space*. What is it and do you engage in this level of warfare when navigating psychological terrorism in white spaces? What strategies do you employ to ensure that you do not suffer mental trauma in spaces that reify systems of oppression? Share and discuss.

10. In Chapter 4, the author discusses *La Petite Mort* or *levels of death*. Have you experienced racism that resulted in a figurative or literal death immediately followed by rebirth?

11. What does it feel like to mourn the death of your soul? Have you recovered? Share and discuss.

12. The author writes about the *afterlife* on earth in Chapter 4. What is the afterlife on earth? Share and discuss.



THE LAMB OF GOD

CHAPTERS 5, 6, & 7

1. In Chapter 5, the author provides the reader with a brief introduction to her family. What was family and kinship like in your household? Was your family led by a man or a woman and if so, how has that impacted (positively or negatively) your family structure and relationships now?
2. The author uses imagery to draw the reader in. For example, she writes about "scents wafting through the air." What other examples of imagery does the author use? What food memories come to mind when you think back to your childhood?
3. Do you share stories of your childhood with your children? If so, do they evoke happy memories?
4. Chapter 6 is about *Redemption*. Is spiritual death and rebirth possible without wading in the water?
5. How do you communicate with your ancestors when you are in trouble?
6. The author talks about the death of those who wade in the water and are drowning. Are you drowning? If so, do you stretch your hand to the ancestors or do you fight them?
7. Define what freedom means to you?
8. In Chapter 7, the author discusses *death and life*. Which concept applies to you?
9. Are you a servant of God? If so, do you have the capacity to raise the dead? How can you *form* so that your life is an extension of God? Share and discuss.

QUESTION ABOUT THE BOOK:
How did you feel at the end of *Formation*?



“TO EVERYONE MAKING THE DECISION TO JUMP,
THOSE WHO JUMPED AND DROWNED,
FOR THE ONES WHO ARE STILL FIGHTING AGAINST THE WAVES,
AND TO THE ONES WHO MADE IT TO SHORE,
GO BACK AND GET THE REST.”

JOHN 12:9

A DISSERTATION ON THE
"POWER AND EFFICACY OF INDULGENCES" IN PUBLIC EDUCATION



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