

Action Book Clubs

If you want to learn more *and* do more, an action book club may be for you!

The OCE invites W&M community members to create Action Book Clubs in which you will select an issue to explore in depth. In the Clubs, participants will read a book, discuss the issue, and serve in community.

Action Book Clubs are designed to encourage community connections within W&M and the greater community at-large by encouraging collective understanding through conversation and meaningful collaborative service to impact an issue important to you.

Things to Consider

Select An Issue. What issues make you (and others) come alive and compel you to act? Passion and enthusiasm anchor the best conversations and informed action. Other things to consider:

- About what issues do participants need or want to know more?
- Explore an initial question(s) to ground the group's work

Create the Community. What are the elements that must be in place to create the impact you want to create (internal shifts and external community change)? Consider norms, values, and needs. Other things to consider:

- Frequency and style of meetings
- Who will facilitate the gatherings? What about any other roles needed for this to be a success?
- What accommodations do individuals need to ensure access and inclusion?
- Consider the size of your group. The ALA recommends 8-16 (see the [Quick Start Guide](#))
- How might the theme help you design the discussions? Particularly in the age of social distancing, keeping participants actively engaged virtually can be a feat so if you have the bandwidth, feel free to get creative.

Act on What You Know. After reading and discussing, what did you learn? What does this mean you can do to impact positive change/ be a catalyst? Other items to consider:

- What level of impact do you want to make?
- To what organizations do you have access and most align with the impact you want to make?

Reflect on What You Did. What are the learnings from this experience? What impact did the experience have on you?

- What still needs to be done on the issue?
- What is missing?
- Any next steps?
- What are your stories? Share them!
- How can you use this experience to either amplify this issue or expand upon the impact?

Resources:

<https://libguides.ala.org/bookdiscussiongroups/Basics>

<https://www.embracebend.com/decolonize-this-book-club>