**Activity 1: STORY SPACES**

**(An application of Jacqueline Jones “Home places.)**

**DESCRIPTION:**

This actionable anti-racism group training activity is anchored in one interpretation of “home places” presented in Jacqueline Jones Royster’s article, “When the First Voice You Hear is Not Your Own”.

**TEXT:**

Royster, J. J. (1996). When the first voice you hear is not your own. *College Composition and Communication*, *47*(1), 29–40.

Royster offers a beautiful definition of home places in a rebuke:

“People in the neighborhood where I grew up would say, ‘‘Where is your home training?’ Embedded in the question is the idea that when you visit other people’s “home places,” especially when you have not been invited, you simply cannot go tramping around the house like you own the place, no matter how smart you are (Royster, 1996, p.32).

“Home place” is a cultural community that exists still quite significantly beyond the confines of a well-insulated community that we call the ‘mainstream’ and that between this world and the one that I call home systems of insulation impede the vision and narrow the ability to recognize human potential and to understand human history both microscopically and telescopically (34).

**OBJECTIVE:**

* The benefit of the meeting and recognizing differences in home spaces allow for “interpretation that is richly informed by the converging of dialectical perspectives” (Royster). Participants will share home space chronicles of others, without alterity, but honorably and properly contextualized.
* Participants will experience story space analysis that operates “kaleidoscopically” (Royster).

**PART I:**

**Elements of the “Porch Treasure” Model**

1. Agency
2. Kinship
3. Tensions
4. Identification

We will each pen our own “home spaces” narrative. You are invited to:

* Describe the porches, backyards, holiday homes, or other spaces.
* Where were the sites of development for your scope of knowledge? Where did you come to understand “storytelling”?
* Was there a lead agent, a Phoebe, in this discourse community? Who were the people you view(ed) as most powerful? Describe that storyteller and the story space.
* Which languages were spoken?
* Which were the repeated, encoded sounds, smells, and practices?
* Discuss what you recall about meaning making in this space? What did this story space teach you about “human potential” and “human history”?
* Were there recurring sources of concern? Was there a source of collective joy?

**PART II:**

Share with the group your partner’s name and a summarized description of their home space. What were the highlights of this story?

**(End of Activity)**