Twitter Thread by kwanza "openly black" osajyefo



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So post President Biden's inauguration speech, we're going to see more #SouthernStrategy rhetoric emerge.

In particular, white folk being upset about the terms "racism" and "racist."

And, I'm going to share response technique that my mother always used to clarity her points...

Condemn the actions not the person.

White folk see "racist" through a shallow criteria of taboo racism; saying "nigger" in the open or being a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Even then racism will be met as an abstract. It's why even overt racism doesn't always register.

See; domestic terror attack on the US Capitol.

So because they want to internalize the term as a slur, without giving a single thought to their behavior — separate them.

Condemn the actions not the person.

It's a great way to dismantle the tactics and put a spotlight on what racism is.

Here's examples of my mom doing it...

"You're not bad, but what you said was bad."

"You're not stupid, but what you did was stupid."

This allowed her to correct me by examining my actions, extrapolating deeds and their effect on others.

It ain’t magic, they will spin bullshit, to focus on the term as applied to themselves.

But once you start talking about words, their actions, and impact, you create more ground to discuss racism than just their getting huffy over the word.

“Maybe you’re not racist Senator_____, but gerrymandering in these counties racially disenfranchise Black voters.”

“Maybe you’re not racist Congressperson _____, but your COVID vaccines distribution plan mostly served wealth white communities and no those of color despite all CDC data proving POC are at higher risk.”

PS, y’all know I’m first in line to condemn racists, but the hyperbolic pearl clutch for soundbites will need to be met and they don’t get to be offended by being called racist when they are being racist.

PPS, excuse all typos. I haven’t has coffee yet.

Coffee had.

So when you respond, “...but what you said/did was racist.” they will reply (probably indignantly), “How is that statement/action racist?”

■ You go...

Use “racist” and “racism” liberally in breaking them down.

“You say ‘illegitimate votes,’ but as all the counties you’re contesting are predominantly Black, your words smack of racism.”

Fuck’em! Let them defend that.