

A White Person's Response

Written by Nathan Bahr

Panel 1: Long shot of a student (me) walking under a tree. There is a sign by the RAC promoting some sort of awareness. Text is above the vertical rectangular panel.

NATHAN (narrating): On a usual day at school, I see lots of stuff about awareness.

Panel 2: Close-up of the sign, possibly some graffiti on the wall/ground. Smaller, square panel with narration text dispersed in the panel

NATHAN (still narrating): It's mostly signs. Sometimes I see clubs.

Panel 3: Mid shot of NATHAN sitting at a desk in a lecture (maybe CMN 231!)

NATHAN (narration, above panel): A lot of the learning is in in-class lessons or the occasional Instagram story.

VOICE (Professor, outside the frame): ... letter was sent to the chief of police in Winnipeg...

NATHAN (thinking) Man, this is heavy stuff.

Panel 4: Vertical medium shot of NATHAN sitting at his computer looking confused. Article could be up on his computer on awareness.

NATHAN (narrating): I'm sure for a lot of us, we don't know how to react. I personally haven't been affected by much, if any, discrimination.

Panel 5: A long rectangle of greyness with the different aspects of my thoughts appearing as pictorials with the text beside them.

NATHAN (narrating): Sure, maybe my personality is strange, my outlook on life is different, and I have a unique taste in music. It'd be easy for people to make fun of me if they wanted. I mean, MIDDLE SCHOOL? What a mess that was.

Panel 6: Narration on the top again, a close-up of NATHAN's head with different tragedies taking up space in the panel as he thinks

NATHAN (narrating): But overall, I really don't have anything to complain about. I have faced nothing compared to some people around the world.

Panel 7: Another wide panel, taking up space to allow for thought and time.

NATHAN is still thinking deeply. First narration sentence on top, second on the bottom. Hopefully this is at the end of a page.

NATHAN (narrating): So how can we respond? Well, I've reflected some, and found it starts with admitting...

Panel 8: Closeup of NATHAN's computer. He's typing (probably this comic script or just writing in general) with a reflection of his face in the screen.

TEXT (on screen): "I am a white male. A blond, blue-eyed, straight white male."

Panel 9: Some kind of example of unintentional assumptions/unconscious bias

NATHAN (reading what he's typing): One thing I know about white people is that most of us aren't actively trying to be bigoted. We don't recognize how privileged we are.

Panel 10: Multiple examples of people/moments in history that are extremely controversial

NATHAN (narrating/thoughts): But the people who ARE bigoted, the people who are intentionally going out of their way to belittle others, they're loud.

Panel 11: More examples of controversial people and suffering, possibly NATHAN typing too

NATHAN (explaining): They're big, and they're scary. And what they have been doing, how they have been treating others, is wrong. So what should we **DO**?

Black panel/ end of page

Panel 12: Examples of NATHAN's friends in group situations, possible laughing about offensive memes or something. NATHAN standing to the side

NATHAN (indicating): Let's start with our inner circles, because change happens quickest when the people closest to you also change.

Panel 13: A side or over the shoulder shot of an old white person yelling at something on the TV. (We all have this relative).

NATHAN (narration/speech): Call out demeaning behavior, stop tolerating casual racism and bigotry, and stand up for other people.

Panel 14: NATHAN listening to something in his earbuds while walking on campus, as if it's a podcast or he's thinking to music

NATHAN (thoughts, narration, speech? Somewhere in the panel): And I know that there's no way to be 100% unbiased. But we can continue hearing people's stories and learning from them, which might seem difficult, but we are a story-oriented culture.

Panel 15: A shot within NATHAN's mind of pictorials of the different things he's thinking? Talking? Narrating? About, it's ambiguous

NATHAN's voice or something: Whatever media you consume, whether it's social media, films, television, music or podcasts, it tells a story.

Panel 16: Possibly me looking at a picture of people I met in Africa and learned from

NATHAN: It might be easier than you think to begin listening. Though it may seem like a lot of work...

Panel 17: Seasons going by, use some pictorial to represent change

NATHAN: step by step, day by day...

Panel 18: Split panel? 2 sections in one? Of examples of seeing humanity in others and friends learning from each other

NATHAN: we can start destroying our biases by seeing humanity in others and encouraging our peers to do the same.

Blank panel/end of page

Panel 19: Some kind of good act, or multiple, done by people, as NATHAN looks on and smiles.

NATHAN (narration, above the image in the panel): Come on, everybody. Let's start treating people like they're people.

Notes: The storyline of this should essentially be me over the course of an unspecified period trying to figure out how to respond to the various things I see about awareness. It's literally me thinking.

END

PEER REVIEW:

- I liked the message and themes of the comic. It's an important message to get across to people and I think you've done a good job with that.
 - I found it a little hard to follow, however. Maybe it'll be easier to follow with a visual aid.
 - I don't have any major issues with your comic. Just really minor nitpicks. Some of the dialogue doesn't sound natural, but you're still conveying the message well and I don't know if it needs changing.
 - Outside of the comic, I think your script formatting should be cleaned up. I kind of lost where I was a few times. – Stewart Buchanan
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- Solid message. I like how Nathan presents his message through a speech.
 - The message is presented in a very creative way. However, the story seems a bit messy without any visual aid.

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- The dialogue of Nathan's friends seems a bit unnecessary.
- The overall writing can still be improved, it's a bit wordy at times.
- The script is pretty good, and it's really great how in depth into the topic you go. – Wil Castillo