Composition of Place

What feelings do the voices and images in the Composition of Place video elicit in me?

With what did I resonate?
With what did I experience resistance?

What experiences of racism have I had or seen on our campus?

What stories about race stick in my memory and influence how I think about racism now?
Help from Ignatius: Three Questions

What Have We Done?
The Examen invites us to take an honest, unvarnished look at our institution’s past, not to be paralyzed by it, but to know it and discern a way forward. When have we been proud of being an inclusive and equitable community? When have we failed our students, faculty and staff of color?

What Are We Doing?
At the 1963 March on Washington, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke powerfully of the “fierce urgency of now.” What are we doing today to stretch our identity as an anti-racist staff, department, college or board? Whose help do we need to interrupt patterns of systemic racism in our institution?

What Ought We to Do?
The Ignatian Examen leads to choice-making and imagination about the future. Given what we know about ourselves and our world, how is our staff, department, college or board called to respond? What is the moral imperative of our mission, and what kind of college or university ought we to co-create now with each other?
A Prayer for Racial Justice

When we do not see the gravity of racial injustice, 
Shake us from our slumber and open our eyes. 
When out of fear we are frozen into inaction, 
Give us a spirit of bravery. 
When we try our best but say the wrong things, 
Give us a spirit of humility. 
When the chaos of this dies down, 
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity. 
When it becomes easier to point fingers outward, 
Help us to examine our own hearts.

God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us. 
God of love, in your mercy, Forgive Us. 
God of hope in your kindness, Heal Us. 
Creator of All People, in your generosity, Guide Us. 
Racism breaks your heart, 
break our hearts for what breaks yours.