

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS

by Project NIA ([www.project-nia.org](http://www.project-nia.org))

- 1 How and why do most white people in the United States come into contact with the police?
- 2 Based on the video, what are the purpose(s) of police and policing?
- 3 After watching the video, what are some myths about policing?
- 4 What was most surprising to you in the video?
- 5 What is a crime (current or historical) which does not in fact produce harm? What are some harmful things that are not \*crimes\*? Why do you think that some actions/behaviors are categorized as criminal and others not?
- 6 Have people been offered a vision of public safety that doesn't include police? Why not?
- 7 What are the ways we keep our communities safe now?
- 8 What are some ideas you have about how we can address issues of public safety without relying on police or policing?

# ACTIVITIES

## #1 -- Read Franny Choi's [Field Trip To the Museum of Human History](#).

Write your own poem that explores a world without these violent and harmful institutions, or explores a world where these institutions are considered archaic.

## #2 - What do police really do? [developed by Reclaim the Block/Black Visions]

Draw a police station in the center on a piece of paper. Around the police station, draw all the places you see police in your community (at schools, parks, etc...).

Look at your paper and put an X everywhere you believe that we can get rid of police today. For example, do you think we need cops with guns at the grocery store, at sporting events, at libraries etc...

*Q: How many places did you cross off with an X? What does this tell you about policing and what cops do?*

# RESOURCES DEVELOPED BY PROJECT NIA

*that educators can use to discuss police, policing & reconceptualizing safety:*

**Black & Blue:** <https://policeviolence.wordpress.com>

**Chain Reaction:** <http://www.alternativestopolicing.com>

**Community Safety Looks Like:** <http://communitysafetychicago.tumblr.com>

**A World Without Prisons:** <http://cargocollective.com/worldwithoutprisons>