

Due to the ongoing global protests in support of the Black Lives Matters movement, this week we wanted to ensure that our tasks were addressing this international issue. We hope these tasks help you learn, reflect and enable you to support the cause in a variety of ways.

## **Communication – The Power of Words**

Last Tuesday, Claro Amfo made a powerful speech at the start of her Radio 1 show. She talked openly and honestly about the impact that the death of George Floyd had had on her. What she said was incredibly powerful, not only because of the topic she was discussing, but also because of her choices of language to ensure that she helped share the emotions she had been feeling with her listeners. Read her words below, or listen by clicking on the link. Then have a go at the questions at the end of the speech.

"I wasn't at work yesterday and I want to talk to you about why that was. Before I get into it, I want to say that I am fully aware that we are in the middle of this devastating pandemic. I am fully aware that I am not a medical professional or frontline worker. I'm just a woman who does a radio show, but my job is very public-facing so I want to talk to you."

"At Radio 1, we talk a lot about mental health and mine was in a really, really bad way yesterday. In fact, it has been for the past few days in particular, in relation to the death of George Floyd. George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died whilst being held under arrest."

"I couldn't pretend to be happy on air when in reality I was crying, angry, confused".

"Now I didn't have the mental strength to face you guys yesterday, to ask, 'Hi, how's your weekend?' like I usually do with my happy intention, because I know that my weekend was terrible. I was sat on my sofa, crying, angry, confused and also stuck at the news of yet another brutalised Black body."

"Knowing how the world enjoys Blackness and seeing what happened to George, we, Black people, get the feeling that people want our culture but they do not want us. In other words you want my talent but you don't want me."

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"There is a false idea that racism, and in this case anti-Blackness, is just name calling and physical violence, when it is so much more insidious than that. One of my favourite thinkers is a woman called Amanda Seales, and she says you cannot enjoy the rhythm and ignore the blues. And I say that with my chest."

"Tonight there are two things happening that I want you to listen to. Annie Mac, my friend, sister, colleague, is doing a show dedicated to Black artists that have enriched the music landscape. And Seani B and Ace, my friends, will be doing a show on IExtra about their experiences as Black men in this country.

"I want to say to our Black listeners, I hope you feel seen and heard today. And to those of you that already let me know that you are doing the work and are committed to doing better, I see you. So let's do this. Let's all be anti-racist."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aELGfhgaNpl>

Now you have read/ heard these words, have a think about some of the following questions:

1. How did this speech make you feel?
2. Which phrases or words stood out to you the most? How did they make you feel?
3. Why do you think the phrase 'Anti-Racist' is so important?
4. Do you think it was important that Clara made this speech on national radio? Explain your ideas.