

HOUSING AND THE LAW: LESSON 3: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In “The Color of Money,” Dedman writes, “Homeownership is the linchpin in the American Dream.” What does he mean, and do you agree? Why or why not?
2. A bank executive in “The Color of Money” states, “You can prove by the numbers that the Atlanta bankers are discriminating against the central city. It's not a willful thing.” What does he mean that the lending discrimination is not “willful”? Do you think intent matters in this case? Why or why not?
3. Based on the Blockbusting article, how important do you think the law is in limiting housing discrimination?
4. Do you think Black families in Chicago and other parts of the country are owed repayment or reparations for the housing discrimination they've experienced? Why or why not?
5. In the article on Contract Selling, Professor Ornstein says, “In order to move forward and address issues that confront us in terms of poverty and racial discrimination, we have to have a common understanding of what happened in the past.” What does he mean, and do you agree? Why or why not?

WRITING PROMPT

Using evidence from the readings so far, describe the different forms that housing discrimination can take. Who has contributed to this discrimination, who benefits, and who is harmed? Do you think it is important to work towards communities that are more racially integrated? Why or why not?