

Scene One:

We begin with a class of students on zoom. The professor is taking role.

Professor: Steven...

Steven (off screen): Here!

Professor: Melissa...

Melissa: Here!

Professor: Kyle... Kyle...

Kyle pops into the zoom call, a moment late, with a Blue Lives Matter Background

Klye: Present!

*Professor raises an eyebrow towards Kyle.

*Melissa scrunches her eyebrows towards Kyle.

Cut to Melissa's screen.

Melissa (Typing): Hey, Kyle, I noticed your background today and it is a bit offensive to me. Would you mind changing it?

Cut to Kyle, reading Melissa's message.

Kyle (Typing): As an American, and the proud son of a police officer, I have the right to free speech, and I will continue exercising it.

Cut to professor struggling to use Zoom technology.

Professor: Hold on one second while I try to share my screen...

Cut to Melissa, typing: I understand that, it's just that your background is functioning as a microaggression.

Cut to Kyle, typing: I am proud of my country and it gives me a right to say whatever I want...

Cut to Professor: Oh, I think this is the right button!

Professor dramatically clicks a button at the exact same time Kyle and Melissa hit send.

Cut to black.

Scene two:

Kyle, Melissa, and the professor find themselves in an all white room.

Melissa: What is going on? Where are we?

Professor: So that's what that button does!

Kyle: What?

Professor: We have entered an advanced feature of zoom's new upgrade-the tolerance filter.

Kyle and Melissa: The what?

Professor: The tolerance filter. It is here to filter out any hate.

Kyle: I wasn't hating, all I did was put up a background that says 'blue lives matter'.

Professor: But someone was offended by that...

Kyle: Yeah, but she was just being a sensitive snow-flake

Professor: Was she?

Kyle: Uh... yeah?

Melissa: No, you were presenting micro-aggressive behavior and I was rightfully offended by-

Kyle: Micro-aggressive behavior? Now you're making words up!

Professor: Actually...

*professor points to something in the distance. Zooming into the screen behind the three of them is a search engine.

The search engine is right behind the professor and he uses his hands to type out "micro-aggression" He hits search and the three of them are transported to a new room.

Behind them, the dictionary definition of "micro aggression appears"
"A subtle but offensive comment or action directed at a member of a marginalized group, especially a racial minority, that is often unintentionally offensive or unconsciously reinforces a stereotype"

Professor: See, a microaggression does not necessarily have to be an obvious act of racism, but it is still a form of intolerance that can hurt others, even if you aren't meaning to.

Kyle: Okay, but there is nothing racist with me supporting blue lives.

Professor: Actually, there is. For starters, the 'blue lives matter' movement began in retaliation to the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. Blue lives are not actually a thing. Police officer is an occupation. It is, in the sense, a costume that can be taken off each day. There is a choice in becoming a police officer. One can choose to quit their job as a police officer, or retire, they are safe to go into public spaces and not be seen as a police officer. 'Blue' is a temporary identity. For black people, being black is not a choice. It is not something they can take off at the end of the day, quit or retire from. When a black person goes to work, they are black. When they go to the store, they are black. When they sit in a classroom, they are black. To put up a background that satirizes an important movement trying to bring awareness to the injustice black people face in America is a form of aggression.

Kyle: Oh, geeze, I didn't see it that way. Is that why you were offended?

Melissa: Yes. Black people face microaggressions every single day and to have something like that, a reminder of suffering and oppression, forced onto my screen is very insensitive.

Professor: It can be easy to hide behind a zoom screen, but it is very important to remember that if you wouldn't say it in person in the classroom, don't say it on zoom.

Kyle: Okay, thank you guys. I didn't realize I was being so offensive. From now on I will use a different background.

Background cuts to black.

Scene Three

Kyle, Melissa, and the Professor are all back on their respective zoom screens. Kyle now has a "Saturdays are for the Boys" background.

Professor: So for today's lesson we will be discussing tolerance...

Kyle and Melissa both do the virtual thumbs up.