



The Honorable Ken Paxton
Office of the Attorney General
Attention Opinion Committee
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Sent via email: opinion.committee@oag.texas.gov

September 14, 2021

Re: Request for Opinion No. RQ-0421-KP: Anti-Racism and Critical Race Theory Teachings

Dear Attorney General Paxton,

We are the TEACH Coalition, a collective of teachers, professors, community workers, parents, and students across Texas who are committed to teaching the histories of race, racism, slavery, and settler colonialism. We strongly oppose laws and policies that prohibit educators from teaching about the history and social impacts of systemic racism in the U.S.¹ Silencing the discussion of any aspect of these histories in our classrooms goes against the professed values of freedom and equality offered to everyone under the United States Constitution.

On August 3, 2021, you received a request for an opinion (the “Request”) from Texas Rep. James White. The Request asks your office to opine on the legality of teaching “critical race theory” (“CRT”) and other “anti-racism” principles in public schools. We understand that you have requested briefing from several stakeholder organizations to consider as you craft your opinion. To our knowledge, you have not reached out to any student-led organizations, particularly organizations representing a *diverse* group of young Texans to fully understand their perspectives.

We write to share actual instances of discrimination and harm *in Texas schools* that should be the focus of the State’s attention. **To aid in your office’s understanding of the true challenges faced by Texas students, we have attached examples of those experiences, written by a coalition of Texas public school students.** These students are pushing their school administrators to make changes to address the

¹ For more information about the TEACH Coalition’s opposition to House Bill 3979, Texas’ first classroom censorship bill, see our letter here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SI5dxwo1II222Bx4xEKWkr-RDJ8cYcNqnIi0TgINjg0/edit>.

systemic and person-to-person discrimination they've faced and wanted to share those experiences with you.

As a framework used in academic scholarship and legal studies, CRT is not a single set of ideas or claims; rather, CRT is a lens through which to examine and reflect on our state and nation's history of racial discrimination and inequity. Contrary to the Request's claim that CRT rejects the "time honored classical liberal principle of equality under the law" (p. 2), CRT offers a framework to question why racial inequalities persist despite individual equality under the law. Such questions are necessary to secure equal opportunities promised in a democracy.

While the Request lists four anecdotes in an effort to demonize CRT and anti-racism principles, significantly, none of the incidents occurred in Texas. Other than cherry-picked, out-of-context quotes from selected critical race theory *scholars* (not Texas public school educators), the Request offers no factual support for its contention that that "CRT and radical antiracist ideology are entering American"—and certainly not *Texan*—"schools" or that any such teaching or training would violate state or federal antidiscrimination laws. For these reasons alone, issuing an opinion in response to Rep. White's Request would be inappropriate, as there is no factual basis for a legal opinion and any such opinion would thus be speculative.

In addition, courts around the country have found that governmental efforts to censor discussions of difficult issues, including issues of race and injustice, are unlawful—particularly where the impact of such efforts "bears more heavily on racial minorities."² Because the Request presents no evidence of an unlawful application of critical race theory or anti-racism in Texas schools, it is more likely that the request for an Attorney General Opinion (and recent, related legislative actions) are "motivated by a desire to advance a political agenda by capitalizing on race-based fears"—as opposed to any legitimate pedagogical concern.³

Texas students today are deeply impacted by racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination in their schools, sometimes embedded in school district policies and often perpetrated by their fellow students, teachers, or campus staff. Our public school students have a real interest in any issued opinion and how it will impact their ability to thoughtfully share and grapple with the actual instances of discrimination they frequently experience in their schools and communities. An Attorney General opinion that chills trainings, activities, or speech in schools would be detrimental to the academic, social, and general wellbeing of children. Ensuring that teaching and teacher training is diverse, inclusive, and culturally responsive, on the other hand, is proven to improve educational outcomes for *all* students, especially students of color.⁴

We request that you carefully review the attached experiences and consider them as you determine whether to issue an opinion and, if so, the conclusions in your opinion. Texas students do not believe that silence and denial are the answers to discriminatory behavior in schools. Rather, they want their teachers and

² See *Gonzalez v. Douglas*, 269 F. Supp. 3d 948, 965 (D. Ariz. 2017) (quoting *Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro. Hous. Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 269 (1977)).

³ See *id.* at 974; see also the San Antonio City Council Resolution that has declared racism a public health crisis, August 2020, available at: <https://www.sanantonio.gov/gpa/News/ArtMID/24373/ArticleID/19335/City-Council-Officially-Declares-Racism-a-Public-Health-Crisis>.

⁴ See, e.g., Bonilla, Sade, et al., "Ethnic studies increases longer-run academic engagement and attainment," *PNAS* (Sept. 14, 2021), available at <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/37/e2026386118>.

administrators to be prepared and trained to support difficult and truthful conversations about race, discrimination, current events, and their historical roots.

We are pleased to submit these written experiences on behalf of students and have agreed to protect their confidentiality as we share their stories. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kerry Sinanan at kerry.sinanan@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The TEACH Coalition

Texas Student Stories

Below are the stories of Texas students and recent students, gathered by a coalition of student advocates. These stories highlight interpersonal and systemic discrimination faced by young people and the hopes some have for how their schools can be better equipped to address this discrimination. These are a small, but representative, fraction of the experiences of many students. Identifying information has been removed to protect the students.

** The terms POC and BIPOC used below mean “People of Color” and “Black, Indigenous, People of Color”*

Catalog of Student Experiences with School Discrimination

1.	<p>While none of these topics have personally hurt me, there is too much that has happened to my friends and people that I know that I can't ignore any further. While this isn't my personal experience and it feels wrong to be disclosing something that isn't mine, I need to disclose this to raise awareness for the topic. At [my school], I had an English teacher that first off, teased this boy's Chinese name and purposely pronounced it wrong, even though he'd had this kid the year before, knew how to actually pronounce his name, and knew what his preferred name was. Then, this teacher took this same kid into the hallway and told him he should be watching “American boy” movies to learn how to talk like an American boy and not speak in Chinese with his friends in the hallway. I hope you also address the need to have open discussions about these topics in the first place.</p> <p>Since middle school, my teachers have said they can't discuss politics in class, but it always confused me why we couldn't openly discuss topics like LGBT equality, reproductive freedom, or racism. How can you expect kids to come to faculty when they have personal problems or questions when you can't even talk about widespread problems that plague our community and the world? Kids and teachers come to school to learn and learn from each other, but how can we continue into the real world if we can't discuss the hard topics and learn new things from each other? I really hope there comes a time when I can openly discuss these things in the classroom, and we can all learn from each other. If we don't keep the discussion open and keep the conversation going, I can guarantee that this layer of assault, both physically and verbally, will continue within our schools.</p>
2.	<p>I am a Black student.</p> <p>Black students and students of color received harsher punishments often for the exact same actions committed by another white student. This remained so true throughout my school years that it was CRUCIAL to know exactly which faculty members were there to support you and which ones wouldn't hesitate to demonstrate their power through punishment.</p> <p>My Experiences of Racism are far too numerous and are buried far too deep, for me to accurately describe its severity. However,</p>

	<p>the specific instances I recall the most are the ones that involve inappropriate behavior from teachers. For example ,in [my] middle school, during history class, my teacher dedicated a class session to his concerns with why he believed white people should be able to say the N-word. Given that he was a white man and I was one of the few, if not only, black 7th grader in that class, this discussion made me feel uneasy and confused. At the time I was far too young to argue against his points of “why white people should have a W.E.T [(White Entertainment Television)]” (in opposition to a B.E.T. [(Black Entertainment Television)]). I was far too young and ill-equipped to discredit his claim that Africans are the reason chattel slavery existed and in the U.S. The class discussion left me feeling uncomfortable but left many white students feeling very comfortable. In fact ,so comfortable , they continued to use the n-word as they see fit and repeat the insensitive racist comments from my teacher. The point of me discussing this event is because it highlights the issue [of] discrimination. The discrimination that is perpetuated as a result of a school curriculum that aims to legitimize the status quo while supporting the economic, political, and social narratives bound to white supremacy. A process that often occurs as a result of the false and inaccurate depictions of history.</p> <p>It was too often during the discussion I mentioned previously that my teacher pointed to instances in history or examples in our textbook to support his argument. Historical examples of which I’ve never heard nonetheless had the materials or information to refute. To my point, there is an immediate necessity to reform the curriculum administered to students in [my district]. It is too often that teachers , faculty, and other students use the misinformation provided in the we read and the tests we take to sanction their own discriminatory actions. I believe, in fact I know, If I had an accurate depiction of black history and the history of oppression and violence authorized by white supremacy, then I would have been able to defend myself. Rather than feel uneasy and question aspects of my own identity. This is one specific example. Similar and related events happened before and after this moment throughout elementary, middle, and high school.</p>
3.	<p>I feel like teachers don’t address it in our actual school let alone the curriculum. These past couple months there has been so much evidence of students posting and saying racist things and the school doesn’t seem to care (I know because I’ve emailed them about several people).</p> <p>I wish we learned more about minority history. I feel like history in our curriculum is extremely whitewashed. I remember in elementary we were taught that Columbus found America which isn’t true and he was also portrayed in a positive light which is also untrue. This is just one of many examples of the whitewashing of history. If [my district] is going to add history to the curriculum of elementary students, it needs to be accurate. Children are not as fragile as they seem. I think they can understand that Columbus was cruel to the natives; Obviously don’t describe the gruesomeness, but even just saying he was “mean to the natives” is better than “he and the natives worked together to make the new world better.” Again, this is just one example but the entire way history is taught needs to be changed and be correct. Also, I think learning about Black history should be required. I’m not talking about saying “white people were mean to black people but then MLK said let’s try peace and everything was resolved,” but telling the full story and how it is still not resolved. Students have a right to learn the full story and it’s not reasonable to assume they will just look it up online. The curriculum must talk about it as well. There is a lot more that needs to be improved but these are probably the most pressing and at the front of my mind.</p>
4.	<p>Racism happens for all of us even if we don’t like to acknowledge it. This really affects mental health for me and other students in [my district]. Multiple people that I have been to school with have been profiled in the halls of my school. It needs to stop. I am tired of feeling uncomfortable in a school that I felt was going to be my home.</p>
5.	<p>I never understood why the only thing we learn about in American history related to black people is our slavery and oppression. Most of us know more about white history than black history because that’s what we learn and that’s what we are tested on. A lot of students only know black history as far as slavery and MLK. I have attended schools [in the same district] since kindergarten and even at a young age we learn all about the good things white people have done. Who invented electricity, the light bulb and even the cotton gin. We are taught these things for 12 years. I believe [my district] should put more effort into changing this. I think they have done the bare minimum by celebrating black history month with a couple banners and then going back to normal in March. I agree we should celebrate black history month but we should devote more class time into learning about black history.</p>

6.	<p>The one thing that sticks out to me is how euro-centric the history curriculum is, which is expected when the district hires majority white history teachers. I demand the district prioritize hiring black and indigenous history teachers so that American history is more accurately portrayed as the colonial, imperialistic history that it is, rather than gloss over the centuries of discrimination, racism, and genocide that is still prevalent in modern day American society. American history is nothing to be proud of or glorified and the curriculum must reflect the true scope of damage the United States has caused towards its own people and towards other countries on a global scale so that future generations may be better equipped to unlearn and undo the deep systematic issues that still has roots in modern day social and political environments. We are all living on stolen indigenous land that has been toiled on by slaves, so the curriculum should center the black and indigenous suffering endured by the hands of white colonizers. Keep in mind that hiring white teachers to teach these points is not acceptable and the district must hire the appropriate BIPOC* to correctly portray this history.</p>
7.	<p>I am Asian, and I had a white teacher whose spouse was Asian. My White teacher made insensitive racist jokes and comments regarding my race and assumed it was acceptable because their spouse was Asian as well. I once asked my teacher to turn off the lights to make it easier to see the Smartboard, and they responded by saying, "I know why you want the lights off. It's because Asians are cheap and don't want to waste money on electricity. Either that or because your eyes are too small to see the board." My teacher also told me that I looked like one of their Asian relatives when I tied my hair back. They said it was because tying my hair stretched my eyes, making them look more "Asian."</p>
8.	<p>In regards to racism, there have been too many times that I have been or have seen another brown student called or referred to as a terrorist by teachers and other faculty.</p> <p>In regards to discrimination, there have been many faculty members [who discriminate] between gender, religion, race, etc.</p> <p>In regards to dress code, brown students with beards have been told if they knew they couldn't get onto a plane with it, and other racist statements. The dress code also prevents any rebellious graphic printing which needs to be changed to allow students to voice their opinions not only with their words, but with what they wear as well. Wearing clothes with a national flag other than America's shouldn't make the students feel as though they are going to be treated as a foreign "fresh off the boat" or an "illegal immigrant."</p> <p>In regards to faculty, I have complained to faculty about bullying, racism, etc. since I was in elementary school. At one point, I was brought to the principal's office at [my elementary school] and called an idiot for wishing to have an education without having to fear the bullies who would beat me on school grounds. I'm sure everyone has had an issue where a white teacher makes a racist joke or remark, even if they don't mean it, yet it is not okay. One white history teacher called me a "f*cking terrorist" in the middle of class then proceeded to say she felt "unsafe" with me in the classroom. All I did was be born with brown skin, I'm not even an immigrant, I was born in the U.S.</p>
9.	<p>Black and Hispanic students are disproportionately sent to the office, written up, and called out for acting out in class while other students are given a pass for the same or worse behavior. I have observed discrimination from many teachers on the basis of race and religion, including teachers referring to a black student's disruptive behavior by saying "I know it must be hard for *you people* to keep quiet, but you have to try." Some teachers will also single out students of color and blame them whenever the class is being disruptive. As a Jew in the school system, I have also been subjected to a few tasteless comments about my religion, mostly about the stereotypical spending habits of my people. In Freshman year, we were also made to watch a racist and anti-Semitic film called "West Bank Story" that painted Muslims as terrorists and Jews as warmongering and penny pinching. The film oversimplifies the conflict in the Middle East so grossly that I struggle to imagine how it could be used in an educational setting, other than an example of what not to do. The same teacher also assigned us a PowerPoint that had incorrect and offensive information about the conflict in the Middle East, Islam, and Judaism, while painting Christianity in a considerably better light and perpetuating the incorrect belief that the Jewish people had a hand in Jesus' death. When we complained, this teacher explained that it was a fluke and that she had not read the PowerPoint before giving it to us, which reflects an even bigger problem in my opinion.</p>

I believe the police presence at the school is also uncalled for, at least to the extent that it is seen . . . where I attend. [My school] is a school mostly made up of very well-behaved students and having so many police is pretty intimidating, especially when a fight happens, and you see multiple police officers on one person. Finally, harsh discipline is more often enacted on students of color than in other students, and usually more quickly. Teachers tend to be very reactionary when it comes to those kinds of situations. I hope these issues can be reconciled, because I like my school and my district, and my favorite thing about both is how diverse they are. With the amount of diversity we have, there should definitely be a more equal schooling system. I hope you take the time to read all of this. It is extremely important.

10. Our elementary school revolved around painting the founding fathers as white saviors and our teachers truly believe this and perpetuate this notion. I remember being in third grade and learning about the Trail of Tears. The teacher told us Andrew Jackson forced Native Americans to move out of where colonizers were settling, but without Andrew Jackson killing the Native Americans, making statements like, “we wouldn’t be in this school today. We wouldn’t have what we have today.” Why did we learn that colonialism was necessary?
- We learned that Lincoln freed enslaved people. Lincoln didn’t even want to free enslaved people. He just wanted political support from one side of the U.S. He didn’t go around physically freeing them either. They had to free themselves.
- The teachers also spoke highly of the Manifest Destiny, calling the colonizers who committed genocide brave. They never addressed the killing of Native Americans as a genocide either. They made it seem like a war that both sides were responsible for. We learned about Native people like they’re of the past.
- In kindergarten, on Thanksgiving, we had to dress up as pilgrims or Native Americans and the Native people had to wear a hairband with 5 colorful pieces of cardboard paper glued to it to make it seem like a headdress. We reduced the diversity and complexity of all Native cultures into 5 colorful pieces of cardboard paper. I’m glad there wasn’t a Native person in my class. I can’t imagine how they would feel. We cannot learn about Native people as a 5-feathered hair band that only existed after colonizers landed in America and killed them.
- My fourth grade teacher had me (a Latinx girl) and a Black boy stand up in front of the whole class while she pretended to be a slave auctioneer. She called my Black classmate a strong boy who could work in the fields for hours while holding his arm up to make it look like he was flexing for the class. She called me a sweet little girl that would be good for housework while tugging at my braids. I think she wanted to illustrate how auctioning off enslaved people looked like, but the manner she did it was problematic and made me uncomfortable. I can’t imagine how the boy felt. The fact that she is a white woman made me even more uncomfortable.
- In [High School], one of my teachers had an assignment where students had to research one African country and make a presentation about the culture and have an item from the culture (like a food item or clothing). She wanted to show that Africa isn’t a country and that there are diverse groups and borders for countries were drawn by colonizers and didn’t represent how ethnic groups would’ve divided themselves. Students just laughed about how “bad” certain food items tasted or “weird” cultural aspects present in the country. They also just culturally appropriated the places and used harmful/demeaning stereotypes in their presentations.
- We had to memorize when Eli Whitney made the cotton gin as if it was this great revolutionary technology. This put more pressure on enslaved people since production could theoretically increase. Why don’t we learn about Black inventors? Why don’t we learn that Thomas Edison stole the idea of the lightbulb from a Black man?
- In [High School], the dress code was always strictly enforced with the Black girls and Asian and White-passing girls got away with violating the dress code all the time. Also, when I called the teacher out for being unfair, she was fine with it. When a Black

	<p>girl in the same class did, the teacher would call her sassy and even took away her phone and kept it herself until the end of the school day (which didn't follow the school protocol).</p>
11.	<p>The longest serving Art teacher at [my] High School has questioned my hijab on multiple occasions. She asked multiple times if I was ever hot or if I wanted to take it off, as well as why I wore it. Although I was fine answering these questions the first few times she asked, it became clear to me by the 6th time she asked that she was not looking for answer, but, instead, an opportunity to question my modesty. She continued to ask about it the entire time I was a student of hers, but in order to avoid being rude, I just pretended as if I had heard these questions from her for the first time. Because I had been a student of hers for a long time, she felt comfortable sharing with me the fact that she had 2 other students who wore the niqab in the later periods of the day and that their niqab made her very uncomfortable and that it was a "safety risk" because you wouldn't know what they were hiding under it.</p>
12.	<p>I am a Black woman that attended [High School], became Valedictorian, and am now attending [my] University. The whole time, I felt my Blackness was invalidated because I was treated as an exception. "She's not like the other black girls, she's actually smart, doesn't talk ghetto, etc." These microaggressions were perpetuated against me ever since my middle school experience and followed me here. Some people even told me they were blacker than me because they listened to rap music or claimed that I had to be Asian and not black on the inside because I was smart. They referred to me as a Butterfinger, black and yellow, and it has taken me years to un-internalize that and realize how harmful that could be. I noticed how other students at other schools perceived us. They called us ghetto just because our school was diverse and had a substantial Black population. This was my first time EVER at [a school] where I didn't feel like I had to search out people that looked like me. Yet, I could see the disproportionalities. Although Black students made up about 30-35 percent of the school, we only made up about 2-3 percent of the AP/honors classes. I was consistently one of the few Black people in most of my classes and thus that's why I was treated as an exception. But this has such systemic roots. Lack of support, heightened disciplinary action, all these things leading to this disparity. I appreciate my time at [School] and loved some of the teachers I had, but [the District] still has a long way to go to combat racial injustice on the administrative, teaching, and school population levels.</p>
13.	<p>I was bullied quite heavily for my race (Indian) as a 7-11 year old and would constantly tell my teachers but they did nothing and would simply tell me to stop "tattle telling" on my classmates. In middle school, I also had a history teacher at [my school] who was incredibly racist. When learning about slavery he would tell us that "slavery really was not that bad bc the slave owners had to take care of their slaves so they had to treat them well" and several other racist statements like this to try and minimize the horrific impact of slavery. We had several black students in the class, and I can't imagine how it impacted them.</p>
14.	<p>One instance during a lecture in my 9th grade biology class, after a majority of the class had failed the test, the teacher then said that we're going to need to work harder unless we want to "end up like some of our parents" and "depending on government assistance." Might I add, the majority of the class was black and POC. This teacher also targeted and unfairly called out the grades of black students to embarrass them when things were finished grading.</p> <p>If teachers hate children, don't know how to deal with them, dislike a certain group of people, can't teach, or just want a job that gives basic pay and long breaks, they should NOT teach. Students should NOT be forced to stand during the pledge if the people who literally built this country with their bare hands are being persecuted and murdered, when indigenous peoples stop going missing with no media coverage whatsoever, when ICE will continue keeping people in cages and gassing them every 15 minutes, and when all Asians despite their ethnicity are getting beaten up and getting blamed for COVID-19. All while people are allowed to protest for not wearing a mask during a pandemic, but BLM protestors are being shot and gassed. All Black Lives Matter. There is no reason for police to be armed and in schools. Move the funding to people who can actually help: Mental health specialists and people who specialize in helping those with addiction problems. We don't just want posters or a paragraph saying you "CaRE." Show change! Make changes!</p>
15.	<p>Not my experience, [but I] have noticed it and friends have experienced it.</p> <p>There is a lot of discrimination when it comes to dress code with girls, especially with black girls. I've been to two high schools in</p>

	<p>[my district] & one is known for being “white” & the other “black” & in both schools, white girls can wear leggings or shorts without having the shirt covering their behind and get no discipline, but when a black girl or a Hispanic with curves wears leggings and shorts that the shirt is covering their behind & is super oversized, they get detention! What is with this discrimination I’ve seen in both schools in [my district]! Boys wear shorts that are extremely short but girls get in trouble for having ripped jeans!!</p>
16.	<p>I am an [high school] alumni. [The school]is notorious for over-policing black students compared to white and Asian students. [The school]is also heavily segregated, with AP classes which have better curriculum consisting of mostly white and Asian kids with better socioeconomic backgrounds.</p>
17.	<p>I have had teachers make fun of me for being confident and proud about being Puerto Rican. I had a teacher talk about how Puerto Rico didn’t deserve the United States help after Hurricane Maria, knowing my entire family lived in Puerto Rico. “Who cares what happens to them?” “They don’t belong in the U.S. so why do they deserve our help.”</p>
18.	<p>I have experienced being called the n-word several times by several different people as well as hearing and seeing others face the same with no actions being taken against these infractions.</p>
19.	<p>I am Mexican and I am very proud of my heritage, however, the day after Trump got elected as president, 15 people came up to me and said things such as “Got your bags packed?” “Aren’t you supposed to be going back to Mexico?” etc. I was 14 years old and never in my life have I ever felt so embarrassed and ashamed of myself. This occurred at [my high school] and all comments were made by white students.</p>
20.	<p>Although I have not personally experienced racism, I have seen it. Members of programs, specifically the [high school] Band Program, have been overtly racist to other members. For example, one individual, a section leader, has referred to POC* as “monkeys.” Furthermore, this same individual, (who isn’t black) has used the n-word as a normal part of their vernacular. Their friends have enabled this disgusting behavior and the directors have yet to make a statement regarding this overt racism even after being confronted about it. I feel like an assembly or a staff-wide anti-racism training would assist in promoting an environment where no one feels less than perfect. I feel like a [zero] tolerance policy on any form of discrimination would be excellent in this situation, this would prevent individuals from participating in school-sponsored events and activities, which would curb a lot of overt racism. And maybe also some kind of anonymous tip service (similar to the district-wide one recently unveiled, but maybe one for harassment/discrimination on the school level).</p> <p>As I said in the prior [section], the current curriculum is designed to make the district have an excellent TEA rating at the expense of the student. There needs to be reform (at the state level, if we’re being honest) where students do not feel so immensely pressured to get a particular grade or pass a test. On a more specific scale, the history curriculum is awful. The vast majority is repeat information that we’ve already heard many times that is barely developed throughout the entire schooling process. I’m aware that this information is important to know, but it is typically white washed and glossed over and no new information is really being taught. Like you have to take an AP history class to even get a more in-depth historical education because on-level classes are practically useless. And even with these APs, the curriculum is still quite white washed due to the College Boards’ obsession with profiting off how well students do on exams. In conclusion, I shouldn’t have to learn history from twitter threads and news articles. Although I am totally for doing your own research and providing your own extension of your education, the American Public Education System is painfully flawed, especially in teaching history. If they actually taught it correctly, there’s a chance we’d have less confederate flag waving racists, homophobes, misogynists and all the other “ists” that we so feverishly want to defeat.</p>
21.	<p>In general, it’s very important to rise up and talk about such matters [as race] in a society like today when they are even more prominent and need to be discussed in order to prompt action. I have experienced racism and it has been detrimental to my mental health. I think no student should ever go through what I have been through.</p>

22.	<p>[My high school] has a very segregated environment and admin has failed at encouraging students. AP teachers are often racist. I had a conversation with a white teacher, and she called her black boyfriend a crazy n word. They fired her but I had to come in and fill a report on what I could've done better. Black students are often discouraged from displaying black culture, such as drugs. Not enough black teachers, many teachers [are] covertly anti black. Also many non black Asian students regularly abuse black culture and use the n word regularly. Multiple South Indian boys in the back of my bus said the n word and when I asked if they had any morals or ethics to understand as to why they couldn't say it, they explicitly said that they have no morals or ethics. Many of these kids are in the top ten percent. One of them has allegedly said he would own slaves if he lived in that era. There is a deep disrespect in many students towards black women. It creates a hostile environment for all black women at [my high school], especially the students. There was a white boy who replied to a girl's Snapchat post regarding starting a black student union and said something along the lines of 'maybe I should start the "Kool Kids Klub."</p> <p>HEAVY transphobia and queer phobia that makes it damn near impossible to feel safe to be publicly out. I am the [high school] GSA [Gay Straight Alliance] president and I personally believe admin should be helping us establish our club because of the queer phobia and how difficult it is to recruit students willing to be in a GSA if you do not have a safe school environment. Being out is very difficult when your peers are not informed, and teachers and admin don't care to make that easier on you. Plus, if they did, I never saw outright support that made me believe I would be listened to and taken seriously.</p> <p>Many non black teachers use harsh consequences against black students who are doing the same task as non black peers. I had a classmate who was a Black boy and I noticed that a teacher was very harsh and swift to punish him for small things. Many of the Spanish teachers are anti black and engage in the same behaviors. I have close relationships to many of my teachers and many of my regular teaching teachers tell me about how the admin doesn't really care about student learning. The grades are what matter, and they seem to be trying to make regular classes easier to get grades higher. Most regular kids are poor Black and brown kids who don't have the resources that many of their financially stable white and Asian peers get. There is no bridge trying to be made. They're making it worse. Also like ugh super white supremacist history teaching but that's America overall.</p>
23.	<p>I have once had a teacher tell me to go back to my country because I would not stand for the pledge. He never apologized to me.</p>
24.	<p>While I've experienced racism at the hands of other students, I believe that emphasis must be placed upon racism within the curriculum. From textbooks that sugarcoat periods in history, to blatant ignorance of Black and POC* historic figures, the curriculum in [my district] fails to serve and foster the diversity which it statistically claims. Discrimination on other grounds is also rampant.</p> <p>Furthermore, faculty fails to stand against discrimination. When told about homophobic slurs that were being used by other students, the faculty members brushed me and my friends off. Faculty members and students must be held accountable for their choices. [My district] cannot be allowed to pick and choose which civil rights policies they enforce.</p>
25.	<p>There was a time at [my high school] where a White male punched a special ed kid and when people (mostly Black and Hispanic) went to confront him, his White girlfriend punched one of the girls in the face. The girl didn't get in trouble but the people who were there confronting them got sent to an alternative school and the white boy got away with it and had a principal follow him everywhere so he wouldn't get touched. They took the kid out of the special ed program so it wouldn't look bad on them and wouldn't let us protest about it even though it was our right to.</p>
26.	<p>[My high school] has multiple claims that's been swept under the rug as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress codes directly target girls, especially clothing worn by black girls. • Only black girls are ever dress coded, even if they didn't break a rule. • Black kids are handcuffed after fights. • I need a letter to exercise my right to protest the pledge. • I was verbally assaulted by multiple students for not standing for the pledge, being bisexual, and being black. • We only learn white washed history.

27.	<p>I've been in [the same school district] my whole life, and I never really noticed the racial tensions in our schools until high school. Little things have tipped me off: black students sitting in the back of a seating arrangement, or a teacher calling on white students the most. I've never experienced racial prejudice before (I'm not a POC*), however, I notice how black/Hispanic students are mostly sent to the office, and teachers lack the same patience when it comes to white students.</p>
28.	<p>I believe that we should stop whitewashing our history curriculum as well as covering up LGBTQ+ history. Our curriculum is supposed to educate us and we can't be properly educated if we are only taught white, heterosexual, cisgender history. I also believe that rather than telling girls what to wear, that we teach boys to be respectful of women and not objectify them. We should address mental health in school because many students struggle with theirs and they need to know that they aren't alone. We need to teach students to respect their peers and teach consent rather than blaming the victims of sexual harassment. Our students should feel safe and comfortable when they are at school. Many times, I have witnessed bullying, racism and homophobia between students. No one should feel unsafe when going to school so we must teach respect and properly educate our students and staff.</p>
29.	<p>Over 4 years at [high school], I experienced a growing police presence that I felt was correlated with a growing black student population and a lower investment in understanding and mentoring said black students following the placement of [the] principal. Extracurricular activities are abundant and/but also extremely classist in a district that is so diverse. There MUST be money allocated to helping students participate in extracurricular therefore diversifying extracurricular activities. As an active theatre student, I spent at least \$500 a year to participate in nearly everything (including mandatory donations. etc., and voluntary though highly encouraged activities like going to Texas Thespian Convention where collegiate opportunities and scholarships are present). The resources in extracurricular programs goes to buying pretty banners, and other such items rather than actively investing in the students who work to enrich the programs arguably more than the instructors and teachers do. If [the district] promotes and cares for diversity, they need to work harder to advocate for the students who make it diverse and do more to support them outside of the classroom.</p>
30.	<p>My science teacher constantly picked on me and targeted me for being the only Asian in the class. Her expectation for my grades were to be over a 95, and when my grade was at a 93, she emailed my parents to say I was slacking off in class and that "she knew I could do better," which was completely unwarranted since I've never been good at science and a 93 was something I was proud of. On the very first day of class, I was also approached by her saying "I didn't belong in a regular science class," even though I hadn't done any work or turned in any assignments at all showing how well I did in the current class. I hated the double standard she had for me compared to the rest of my classmates.</p>
31.	<p>A lot of kids will say the f-slur as if it's normal. Every time I tell them the history of the word and not to say it, they'll "accuse" me of being lesbian (not like it's an insult to me, but they think it is). Anyways, it bothers me because it shows that standing up for homophobia automatically makes you gay, which unfortunately will make many kids complicit with it out of fear. Also, many teachers will just ignore a student who says the slur in class rather than call them out.</p>
32.	<p>At [my middle school], I was riding the school bus home when this guy kept throwing things at me. I threw back a piece of paper that I got a hold of, and I will never forget what he said. "She's gonna bomb us all." So many people laughed, although many did stand up for me. I remember crying all the way home that day. I was in the 6th grade... [The district] is not what it says it stands for. I have many more stories as a sophomore now of racism and harassment. What I would take into account is my ages in these. 11 and 13. No child should have to go through that.</p>
33.	<p>My specific experience with racism was the way that our HS tennis coaches addressed me and my friends. They would always refer to us as "those Asians" in a mocking and distasteful manner, and I am ashamed that I never spoke up about it. I have also had many homophobic responses targeted towards me and my friends by our classmates behind our back to other people. Unfortunately, I can't remember exactly what their words were, but I do know that these conversations were being held.</p> <p>Lastly, our curriculum is very outdated and Euro-centric. We were taught to be proud of these "solutions" that the US presented</p>

	<p>when there were any problems in governing the nation; however, we would always glaze over the subject of how the U.S. created the problem or what the full extent of the solutions were. It's a shame that there is a lack of importance shown in the teaching of social issues within history and government classes. With that said, I can unfortunately only speak for the structure of AP curriculum based classes, so I am not sure how the non-AP classes were taught. I can confidently say, though, I doubt that their curriculum was any better.</p>
34.	<p>A fellow student called me Ling Ling and said that I eat dogs/cats. I've also had a teacher try to say that I couldn't afford a \$10 field trip when I said I didn't want to go. I know she said this maliciously because she did it in front of the whole class and was looking at me smugly.</p>
35.	<p>I attended [my Middle School] (I am now a freshman so I no longer go there) and my experience was awful. There were countless times in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade where white students would do the same thing as black students, but the white students would get a warning from the teacher while the black students would get an office referral. Also they blew whistles in the hallway at students which is inappropriate for a learning environment. Another thing is the structured seating at lunch. They divide people by boys and girls and make you sit down in the order you walk in. Then, in class the teachers complain that kids talk too much and that "they have lunch to socialize" but we really didn't because at lunch we couldn't even sit with who we wanted to.</p>
36.	<p>The class of 2020 was the most racist/homophobic/transphobic/xenophobic/etc. class I have ever seen. There was a group of white kids who would constantly say the N word, say things like how trans people have something wrong with their heads, and were overall extremely racist to anyone outside of their group. We sent so much proof of these kids being racist to the faculty and they did nothing. . . . Lastly, they allowed multiple quotes that said "make America great again" for the senior quotes but removed over half of the POC* senior quotes from the yearbook. [My] high school staff needs to do better.</p>
37.	<p>[We need m]ore diversity in the actual curriculum we learn. All the authors I learned from were white, with a majority being men. This cannot be tolerated in any school, much less one of the most diverse school districts in America. Furthermore, the lack of POC* students (especially black and Latinx) being encouraged to take AP courses [is a problem]. Further, the allowance of racist comments being allowed on different school's platforms [is also a problem].</p>
38.	<p>As a black, female at a predominantly non-black majority school I have definitely faced discrimination.</p>
39.	<p>During my time in [my high school], I saw/experienced many interesting and ironic things. As mentioned, we always prided ourselves in being a "diverse" school. However - how was that diversity handled? Was staff equipped to deal with all the students of different backgrounds coming in?</p>
40.	<p>Racist remarks and actions consistently go unchecked and unpunished. A close friend of mine who is Jewish received a swastika in her locker and when it was brought to the administration's attention nothing was done. The same is true of multiple instances of students using the N word and other racial slurs on school property. There is absolutely no protocol for what is to be done about racist threats or comments, so the majority of these incidences are never fixed. Personally, as an LGBT student of color I've been outed by administration and told that my sexuality will cause "problems for me later in life" if I don't "fix myself" during my time at [my middle school]. Discrimination is allegedly not tolerated but realistically the district's "No Place For Hate" campaign applies only to physical fights. In these cases, at [my High School] I've seen a number of black students called in for fights where their white counterparts were let go with a warning. There is no outlet to report these incidents that ensures action by administration, so an even larger majority goes completely unnoticed and unchecked.</p>
41.	<p>We could have more inclusive classes that focus on the history that we don't always hear about, such as Asian, African, and indigenous history. Furthermore, we could promote a dress code that does not solely target women because this teaches boys that girls are a "distraction." Furthermore, we could promote better mental health by decreasing the amount of homework that students feel less pressure on themselves to succeed. In order to target racism and discrimination, [my district] needs to create a</p>

	comfortable environment that allows students to be themselves.
42.	Some of the teachers and staff, as well as students, have unfairly treated black and brown students in schools. I remember in middle school being treated better and more intelligent because of my race which is unjust. Teachers inflicting their backwards political opinions on students, sexual assault experiences being swept under the rug, the list goes on. I've never been comfortable reporting anything to teachers or staff, due to the lack of action.
43.	As a black student attending [high school], racism is often excused because the staff are racists themselves. Black students have been targeted by many as if we already don't have to worry about our life walking down the street. Staff targets black students and [my high school] isn't the only school that has experienced this, which is even more a shame. You should be preparing us to become leaders but instead silencing us when we (black students) try to speak on what is right and why we feel oppressed in our own school.
44.	[I've seen] students being blatantly racist and having the teachers do nothing.
45.	Several teachers in AP classes treated me and other Black students poorly. For example, on the first day of class Freshman year, I was singled out and asked to check my schedule again to make sure I should be sitting in the Pre-AP English class. My senior year, a teacher in the English department intentionally misnamed other students of color. She disciplined me in front of the class several times when white students got a pass for similar behaviors.
46.	I went through severe mental health issues and wasn't always treated right by administration. My family and I had to fight my school, the board, and more just so I could stay in school while dealing with major depressive disorder, anxiety disorders, and more. The only reason they started helping me more was because my parents had to fight for me every week or month. Countless calls, emails, conversations with all levels, etc. I was very appreciative later that I was allowed various accommodations, but I know that not all students can't receive what I could. I was very lucky and privileged. I always wonder what the situation would have been if I wasn't white because I've heard stories of other black and brown students not being treated with respect and equally for the same problems.
47.	I've experienced anti-Semitism and see my friends experience racism yet the admins don't actually do anything.
48.	Mental health is another issue that goes hand in hand with racism. Going to my HS, I saw many students who were made out to be villains within the class simply because they had a bad day. One time in one of my classes, a black student (who had for so long been labeled as a "delinquent"), put his head down because he was tired. The teacher took him out for 20 minutes and after he came back, the student was forced to pack up his things and leave the class. It was all of a sudden and completely uncalled for. Teachers see tiredness as a sign of rebellion within their class and it needs to stop. This happened in many of my classes. Even I myself sometimes dozed off within my class but I was never called out, only my black and brown peers. The incident with the "delinquent" student is imprinted in my mind because of how unfair it was. Allowing students space to breathe and live their lives is imperative to obtain an adequate education. You cannot expect these young students who are still figuring out who they are to juggle school, friends, social lives, extracurriculars, and stay mentally sane. The longer we think it is okay for such outdated and outlandish rules to exist, the longer our society is forced to live in the shadow of true progressive thinking.
49.	[J]ust because students don't report their experiences with racism doesn't mean they don't happen.
50.	I've experienced racism when another faculty said that women in my religion are forced into arranged marriages and that she feels sorry for me.
51.	Change history curriculum to reflect unbiased facts that don't glorify racists and ignore facts. The police presence on campus should be minimized and the police should go through strict diversity training to prevent biased members from entering our community.

52.	<p>In my four years at [School], I have seen blatant racism go unattended on numerous occasions as well as veiled systemic racism from both teachers and students there have been several outlying teachers known for making racist comments as well as teachers who simply continue to simply treat black and brown kids different from white kids as if they aren't as "trustworthy." There have been many students who have made aggressive racist comments to black and brown kids that have gone in and been punished and addressed.</p>
53.	<p>I graduated [High School] this year, and I wanted to speak about one teacher in particular because [they]nearly ruined my second semester of senior year. A specific government teacher is exactly what every government teacher shouldn't be. [The teacher] made [their]political views extremely obvious and apparent when [they] bashed Democrats or liberals. For instance, [they]would only show us conservative media channels, which is so wrong to do in a school setting, [they're]teaching kids [their]political views and only showing what [they]thinks is okay. Once, an ad came on before a FOX news clip, and it was a Bernie Sanders advertisement and [the teacher]began to make disgusted faces and side comments. When Nancy Pelosi ripped up Trump's speech, [the teacher]said that Pelosi needed to pray for forgiveness and that she should be ashamed of herself. As someone with differing political views, I was certainly uncomfortable walking into that classroom everyday with a teacher who clearly was again[st] what I stand for, I even talked to other students who share similar views and they told me just how uncomfortable they were as well and didn't know what to do. I told my [school] administrators about this situation and even wrote a report on it, and nothing ever happened, I never got a follow up meeting with administrators.</p>
54.	<p>Racism is present and the discipline for racists remarks need to be equal to getting in a fight. Racism clothing needs to be outlined in the dress code as not allowed. There should be a district-wide black caucus with president on the decision board as a voice for black students. We need to learn more about black history in our curriculum and entrepreneurship! Also, it should not be in the student hand book that you must stand up for the pledge. I was written up for not standing for the pledge because I don't believe in it. Forcing students to stand up for the pledge is like forcing students to pray in school.</p>
55.	<p>The black students are far more likely to get in-school suspension which is disgusting and unfair. [The District] gloats a lot of their diverse student body but does little in regards to protecting the minorities in their system. [The District] needs to do better and teach important parts of history ignored to make white heroes seem perfect and teach about BIPOC* victories.</p>
56.	<p>I can say that, in terms of experiences, many students use "gay" and many other slurs (i.e. the n-word, the f-slur, etc.) as insults and teachers do nothing to stop them. Many teachers are known to have discriminatory views, and while students pass this around for protection, faculty never does anything. An example of this experience, was a teacher of mine blatantly being xenophobic by saying that Americans like her (aka: white Americans) shouldn't have to go through TSA, because she would never commit acts of terrorism, even though there are countless records of Americans committing terrorism in America.</p>
57.	<p>The curriculum hurts POC* and erases the true dark history of America. Also, we need to start from kindergarten, teaching students what consent is and how important it is.</p>
58.	<p>There are some students who are racist and rude and still get to play a sport and participate in school activities. (This also goes for discrimination) people will judge others and be rude because of things like how they look and receive no punishment.</p>
59.	<p>A couple of years ago I witnessed an event where someone I know made a racist remarks on their social media page. It became viral and the principles were immediately notified. It was defended as a joke and all [the district]did was remove the student and send them to another school. It did not solve the problem. The friends who promoted the "joke" were not talked to either. I believe the student who was targeted pressed charges, but it was dropped later. (By the way the joke was about shooting up black people.)</p>
60.	<p>A large amount of the students are black. Our school has test scores higher than [other schools in our district], yet people still call us stupid. The faculty would rather suspend a Black or Latino student for a single 'disruption' in class, but will hold their breath before punishing another student of another race for a cheating scandal. Students outside of our school call us ghetto, lazy, and</p>

	stupid. They look at me with pity when I tell them I'm a student at [my school]and that I enjoy it.
61.	[My]school was very racially biased. The Spanish 2 teacher would pick on the Indian/South Asian boys and girls but never joke around and bother the white kids. The white teachers would always move the boys out as soon as they acted somewhat out during teaching without helping them. There are tons of children with ADHD in schools but get shunned by teachers for being loud or acting out but the teachers never think and wonder why the children are acting out and the source and help them. A lot of teachers would talk about god and religion their church life which isn't allowed but they would talk and talk but if a student was Hindi, Buddhist, Muslim, or any other religion that wasn't of the Christianity branch, they would shut it down as soon as they spoke. The new 8th grade counselor was a god send, she wanted change for the school and cared for the kids but teachers would gossip about her to the students and other teachers which is horrible and unprofessional and treatment for a black woman, and the teachers that would gossip about her were all white women.
62.	<p>[We need] training about biases and discrimination. For example, students should be much more aware of the reason behind why they shouldn't use racial slurs. Also, regular town halls/school discussions focused on race/what the school can do to further support their students of color. Also, I don't understand why we have so many school assemblies about drinking/drugs and the key to success or whatever, but none about social issues like the war on drugs, prison-industrial complex, etc etc. Also, why are there never panels of POC* talking about their experiences navigating the professional world? [The district] loves to tout their diversity badge yet expects all of their students to live the "white" experience.</p> <p>Stop teaching history/literature through the white lens. History classes should include things in their curriculum like first-hand accounts from African American slaves, Latinx/AAPI immigrants (who have literally just been erased from history), the writings of civil rights leaders, etc. It should also talk about how our current society is built off of centuries of white supremacy (i.e. Marion Sims perfecting abortions and c-sections for women today based off of unethical experiments on black women). Don't even get me started on English classes. I've had to read a literal shit ton of mediocre books by dead white dudes all throughout my K-12 education, but I think I can count on one hand the amount of books I've read by authors of color. Assigned reading by POC* should not just be MLK's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" while we read about white people going to school (A Separate Peace) or partying until they die (Great Gatsby). Why do we only read about POC in pain/persevering through discrimination??? On the opposite note, though, there's more to the Civil Rights Movement and race in America than just MLK (who has been heavily sanitized by white America). We should normalize reading James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and especially modern writers like Ta-Nehisi Coates. We are being prepared to enter today's world, yet we do not read anything modern because it is not "classic" enough? Genuinely, how does that make sense?</p> <p>[M]y second grade teacher at [my] elementary school was genuinely xenophobic and kept punishing me for being "loud" and "disruptive" while all the white kids did the exact same thing and she didn't say anything about it.</p>
63.	There's just a lot of discrimination in the schools in general. Between teachers, students, a lot of stereotyping and racially fueled jokes that aren't ok. "Oh you're Asian you can do my homework," "Oh you're black you must love watermelon," "oh you're Hispanic do you think you could mow my lawn," and it goes on and on. I'm tired of it. It's not funny and it's rather insensitive and gross.
64.	I have picked these problems because I was once racially discriminated against for speaking Chinese after school to my mother by a teacher then the next day told to not speak Chinese anymore. They've justified it and when telling the principal at the time I was given an analogy of justified racism and said that it's due to me being rude. Discrimination in classes is very prominent and if you don't play a sport or are an athlete some teachers classes, they won't feel the extra need to help you and push you along learning.
65.	A teacher said the n word multiple times and gets away with it, as well as has at one point asked a student if they had been tested for autism. These are only the things I've witnessed him say (he did these when groups of students were present), but he is very unapologetic. He told me he has gotten in trouble many times with what he says but he continues to get away with it because the

	<p>school really has no power to do anything of value that would punish him other than give him a slap on the wrist.</p>
66.	<p>It isn't right that the majority of student in Detention are Black students. Why do white rich kids get away with more? Equalize punishments and make a baseline guide about misconduct so other students aren't disadvantaged without faculty meaning to. Our district is racist whether we know it or not. Teach teachers about this so they consciously make an effort to be anti racist. Our district needs to speak up in the BLM movement and support marginalized students. They aren't doing enough.</p>
67.	<p>Racism is a part of [my school's]culture. How can I talk about my experience without talking about how people would degrade, disrespect, and mistreat "the Mexicans." I put "the Mexicans" in quotes because that's how they were talked about. I always heard people saying "The Mexicans always get the worst grades" or "The Mexicans are so stupid" or "The Mexicans are taking over. There's too many Mexicans here." Every Mexican or Mexican-American who attended [Middle School] was seen as less than all the other students. They were always lumped together in the "stupid" or "troublesome" category, and people would say they were just going to grow up to be lawn mowers or they should go back to their country. It was awful, and it was so normalized.</p> <p>Black kids were often treated the same way, especially if they weren't popular. I definitely heard white people use the N word at [my schools]. Any student of color had to adapt to the situation. It's why I have such thick skin. If I couldn't handle that kind of racism, I would have never lasted in that school environment. I have a dark-skinned, female friend who was followed into school one day by another male student chanting "KKK" in her ear. The same male student said "We didn't complain when your kind was our president" talking to Black kids after Trump was elected. I don't know if he still goes to school in [my district], but he said a lot of racist things like that. A lot of us were confused about why he would say such harmful things about Mexicans and Black people because he was Mexican-American. I think the romanticization of white supremacy in the U.S. had been rooted so deeply within him that he didn't even see how he turned his back on his own culture. It's not an excuse, but it is a tragedy. In losing respect for his own culture, he began to verbally abuse non-white students.</p>
68.	<p>Unable to afford being involved in band in middle school and unaware of any resources available (if any), not having a champion when I was told I couldn't take 8th grade algebra (I took a simple "no" for an answer and wasn't given an explanation), the transition from a bilingual school to a monolingual school meant my parents stopped being involved in my education, received rude comments from a science teacher about being involved in extracurricular activities (because I didn't look like the type to be involved in school), falling behind in future math courses because I was 1 out of 2 girls in my geometry class and my male teacher would only talk about basketball and video games... receiving hard discipline due to a misunderstanding in English Pre-AP my freshman year at [my school] (a misunderstanding because the rules of academia were not made clear to me as a student who comes from a family background where academics are not a top priority.) I struggled well into my college career before deciding to major in Computer Science (unaware that CS was offered at [my] High School). I am now an advocate for Hispanic students in STEM and hope that [the district]works on addressing the fact that many students with potential are often overlooked.</p>
69.	<p>Racism and discrimination is still at [my school]. I want to make sure that [my school]is a very diverse school with people from every race and social class at the school, to really show people that we may be from different backgrounds, but that we are all the same.</p>
70.	<p>I have a lot to say, and I wouldn't be able to fit it all... Please believe there are racist/prejudice[d] administrators there. Students as well. I believe the teachers and staff should have acted like that was more of an issue because it can actually affect us in a major way. I feel like this district does not do enough at all when it comes to raising awareness on race issues etc. I am an African American alumni. I graduated in June 2020, and I have definitely had problems with the staff. . . We didn't even get to have our black history month celebration at the end of February, even when me and a group of friends tried to put it together, they denied us. And I can't let that go because now I have nothing to look back on. In one of his classes (my junior year) he made a comment about how the KKK just uses their free speech as if he was trying to justify what they do. A coach was caught ON VIDEO saying the n-word repeatedly... He was put on leave for like a week or so and then the next thing I know, me and my friends saw him back in the hallways at school. And those are just a few examples. They care more about what you have on than anything else and</p>

	<p>that's a problem. Why are ripped jeans such a big deal? it would be the same if i had shorts on. They say we can't wear pj pants to school. No hoods or durags because of "gang activity" and blah blah. I feel like that is very anti black to ban durags and scarves etc. but maybe that's just me. I hope something is actually done about this.[The] staff needs to be looked at. They caused too many issues.</p>
71.	<p>I am a first generation Latino graduate of [my] High School of the class of 2015. After being admitted early to [my] University, news quickly spread around the school and one interaction with my AP English teacher haunts me to this day. He came up to me and started probing about my admission, I answered his questions and then to end the conversation he made a sly remark to my face in front of all of classmates saying that my admission was probably the result of the university "striving to meet some quotas." At the time, I did not say anything to expose his covert racism primarily because I did not want to taint the remainder of my time in school. However, I am speaking up now because even though I did not let his racism action affect my self-worth, I can imagine the negative impact he and other racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, and classist teachers have had on my peers and generations of . . . students before and after me.</p> <p>I took a Spanish for Spanish speakers course my Freshman year, arguably the only accessible advanced language courses. One would hope that this majority Latinx class could be used as an opportunity to cultivate black and brown success, but my class was exactly the opposite. Our first semester we had a teacher who was later removed due to being criminally charged, if I remember correctly, we then spent about a month without a teacher, then another month bouncing around Spanish classes and finally we got a new teacher who paid little attention to us. This begs the question as to why the class composed entirely of a minority group was given such little attention and priority, covert discrimination?</p> <p>I never personally dealt with police however it did seem strange and invasive that they could always be found in their camera room (big brother was and probably still is watching). I took basically all AP/honors classes and never encountered police in my class I cannot assume that the opposite was the case in regular classes but if it was it would clearly be linked to the over policing of black and brown populations in society at large, therefore leading to higher and harsher discipline etc., etc.</p>
72.	<p>As an Alum and Latina student of [my school district] as my entire K-12 education, I have witnessed first hand the discrimination against black and brown students. Whether it was targeting black students for things worn like, saggy pants or baseball caps, when I would see a white student go undisciplined. Or seeing black and brown female students get targeted more for wearing tighter things or even going without bras (no staff whether male or female should be looking at a student's chest). I have always been frustrated with [my school district] and am completely disgusted. Even when my own life was threatened by another male student, faculty and staff asked what I had done to make HIM angry, instead of giving me the support and security I needed.</p>
73.	<p>I am a graduate of the class of 2020 from [my school district]. Personally, I consider myself to be vocal and active regarding subjects of social justice and I wanted to have extracurriculars that reflected this. Some friends and I were interested in participating in a feminist club that some upperclassmen were proposing, one of my friends was interested in trying to get an admin position in this club (at the time that this club was proposed I was an underclassman). We heard that permission was denied because the club was too political. However, our school has a . . . Club [for a political party] (that's literally the name they don't try to hide it; it's just the 0133 Club [for a political party]). . . Some members of this club in my class were known racists in the student body. Also, there were a total of 3 seniors who had #MAGA or just plain Make America Great Again in their senior quotes, while students who had BLM or gun control related quotes were told to change them or were censored. Lastly, I had multiple friends who were office aids and were heavily involved with school administration with managing events, games, and other senior activities. I've been told that numerous times white kids who were caught smoking in bathrooms were at school the very next day while kids of color were sent to ISS immediately.</p>
74.	<p>Asian racism is a prevalent issue at [my high school]. I've personally seen and experienced people of various ethnicities make remarks such as, "Do you feel bad for bringing Corona to the states?", "Don't get too close! You'll give me the virus!" "I bet you eat dog for dinner!" "What's your mom's name? Ching Chong?" toward people of Asian descent. They also stretch and pull</p>

	<p>their eyes back to mock Asian features. If called out by another student, the offender usually brushes it off as a joke. These actions have been performed in front of faculty, and the staff continues to stay silent.</p>
75.	<p>It's not really racism, but more stereotypical. I've had a teacher ask me to read something in Chinese, which I am not. I am Vietnamese. Even after politely correcting the teacher, he goes on to say that all Asian languages derived from Chinese characters (WHICH IS NOT WRONG) and that I should be able to figure it out. However, after a few times of insisting on reading the characters, he began to get annoyed and started rolling his eyes when I kept saying that I cannot read it. Other Chinese students in the class kept offering to read it for me or straight up saying the word (it was medicine) but he kept insisting that I need to read it. Finally, he pulled his eyes back and looked at the screen and said "oh, I can't see anything with these small eyes, no wonder you couldn't read it." I got a zero for participation that day.</p>
76.	<p>There is a girls gym coach that will call all the black girls the n-word and cuss out the other girls. She's white and has only been suspended once for two days. Those girls need justice!</p>
77.	<p>Throughout the time I have been enrolled at [my] High-school multiple students and some faculty have stated that I do not portray my Race/Culture because I "do not look like someone from South America." In addition, saying that my claims of not being "white" is the reason why "white women slander" occurs. Going on to say that I should disregard where I am from because "I'm in America, look American, and should be proud that I do not look like I am from my country."</p>
78.	<p>My sister (white) was told by a teacher when reading a book aloud to a class that she needed to read the n-word. She refused and the teacher got very mad at her (not that it makes a difference, but she was also in a room full of black kids).</p>
79.	<p>The topic of 9/11 came up during my history class, however at that time, one of the math teachers was just examining the class. When my classmate asked a question about 9/11, the math teacher looked at me and started to laugh and then glanced back at my teacher. I was the only hijabi in the class. I felt so embarrassed and uncomfortable. I was only 12 at the time. unacceptable.</p>
80.	<p>There's a large divide between Academy and non-Academy students and both groups have super negative views about the other that include racist views such as "Oh that student is Black so they're probably not in the Academy," "The Indian kids make this place so smelly," or "Ugh I have to take my electives with non-Academy kids? They're going to be so dumb and ghetto." This issue also carries over to the parents of Academy students, who say things like "My child goes to the Academy but there's so many Hispanic/Black non-Academy students, I'm not sure if it's safe." Although I went to [my school] several years ago, I doubt this has changed because it seemed so deeply ingrained in the culture of the school and it didn't seem like the teachers knew about this issue at all.</p>
81.	<p>My physics teacher would continuously make racist jokes towards Asians by promoting horrible stereotypes like we "eat cats/dogs" and that South Asians "smell bad because they don't have clean water in their countries." He made all the poc* in his class so uncomfortable but continued making these jokes, I'm pretty sure he got promoted later on to a different school/district.</p>
82.	<p>In my school, I've noticed the dress code is mostly enforced on black girls and girls of color. I feel that there is some hyper-sexualization on black/poc* girls. I've NEVER seen a white student getting dress coded but I always see it happening to black and poc* students. The dress code is also tough on plus size girls, girls that are not skinny, dress codes in general are sexist and it might take a while to get rid of it but I think we should start with having equality in the dress code.</p>
83.	<p>There is a boy who has repeatedly gotten away with terrible things he has done to girls and people of color. He has done so much that I made a list. I have even submitted it to [my school district's] victims [services] but I haven't heard anything back from them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uses racial slurs - Says "shut up you're black", "F*cking n*ggas" - Forcefully put his hands around a girl's throat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asked a girl to cuddle with him on a bus ride. The girl told another boy about the incident, the boy confronted (troubled boy) and he got mad at the boy for intervening but eventually stopped for about 2 weeks and continued with inappropriate behavior with this girl. - In a verbal fight with an African American girl and said “shut your n*gga ass up I’m 5’11 and you’re 4’7 and I’ll stomp on your leprechaun a**” - Picked up a girl and placed her on his lap without her permission - Asked girls to flash him when they wore a crop top - Taken pictures of a girl’s butt while she wasn’t paying attention and sent it around. - Freshman year was caught singing a song about tying a noose and was written up but somehow got out of the write up. The next year a noose was found in a fine arts practice room.
84.	The year after I left middle school, my friend told me about how a Social Studies teacher saw a Hispanic boy carrying a crumpled up piece of paper in his hand. She thought it was drugs and he was suspended. When my friend tried to speak up against it, the principal threatened to suspend her too.
85.	Discrimination: in seventh grade I asked my health teacher why we were not taught sex facts or sexually educated on queer sex but we are on straight ones, he simply responded: we focus on the majority. This is horrible because it’s simply excluding the minority of students who need this.
86.	I remember in elementary school, around thanksgiving time, each class either dressed as a pilgrim or a Native American. Those who dressed as Native Americans wore face paint, brown paper shirts with designs on them, and fake feather headdresses. I understood why we celebrated thanksgiving but not the reason for dressing up that way.
87.	I was called into the office of a faculty member due to some of my texts that were taken out of context due to some issues I was having with my peers at the time. The faculty member told me I was making ‘terroristic threats’ and she would have to call the police on me if my behavior worsened. I am a Muslim, and this was likely why I was a threat.
88.	[My teacher] sat in front of me and my mother and laughed in our faces about our accents and claimed that all of the issues that were arising was because of our lack of understanding English. Not understanding English does not give you, especially a teacher, the right to talk down or make fun of another human. I know I’m not the first, and I’m definitely not the last student she makes insensitive racial comments and jokes about. Time for [my district] to take a stand against her and the multiple complaints against her.