

What Makes the Black History and Black Literature Curriculums Examples of Critical Race Theory?

Black History

Reliance on Unauthorized Social Justice Standards

- ◆ Focus on intersectionality and identity
- ◆ Teach students to find microaggressions
- ◆ Emphasis on dominant culture

Focus on Race Essentialism and Structural Racism

- ◆ Group characteristics rather than individual choices
- ◆ Motivations and outcomes always linked to race
- ◆ Racism present in all interactions

Marxist Emphasis on Oppression

- ◆ Assumption that all interactions have oppressor vs oppressed dynamic
- ◆ De-emphasizes neutral law and individual rights in favor of narrative and collective action

Loaded Political Terminology From CRT Texts

- ◆ Bias, power, privilege, antiracism, hegemony, identity, ethnocentrism, microaggression, triggers, equity, social justice, intersectionality, cultural appropriation, caste

Historical Revisionism

- ◆ Presenting one side as fact to support a narrative
- ◆ Historical events presented out of context
- ◆ Excluding history that doesn't fit the narrative

Lack of Critical Thinking and Discussion

- ◆ Critical Theory used as paradigm, not critical thinking
- ◆ Linked sources/activities that are third-hand and biased

Black Literature

Reliance on Unauthorized Social Justice Standards

- ◆ Focus on intersectionality and identity
- ◆ Teach students to find microaggressions
- ◆ Emphasis on dominant culture

Obsession with Identity

- ◆ Identity and intersectionality activity
- ◆ Identity iceberg
- ◆ Everything happens because of identity
- ◆ Comic makeover activity - race, class, gender, ethnicity
- ◆ Everfi Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Lessons

Biased and Political Reading Selections

- ◆ "Born a Crime" - leftist author, one-side political commentary
- ◆ "Between the World and Me" - anti-American political screed opinion, from CRT proponent author
- ◆ "Slay" - fiction story with CRT moralizing and preaching
- ◆ "Heavy" - crude memoir with one-sided political ramblings
- ◆ "This Side of Home" - fiction story with CRT preaching

Biased and Irrelevant Terminology

- ◆ White privilege, equity, bias, anti-bias, colorism, white flight, intent vs impact, gentrification, discrimination, privilege, racism, culturally marginalized

Over-reliance on contemporary memoirs

- ◆ Only critically conscious members of minority groups
- ◆ Lack of other genres and viewpoints from Black Literature