

Basic training For Teachers of Black Students

Teachers who want to effectively educate black children should embrace certain ideas that are fundamental to that effectiveness.

“You should see black children’s humanity before their blackness”

- ☑ Black people are human just as the rest of humanity. *They are not different*, as they would like us to believe.
- ☑ Black difference is *society imposed* and *not nature imposed*.
- ☑ To accept black children as different is to deny all that we know is fundamentally true about human beings.
- ☑ To accept black children as different is to give them permission to ignore the vast majority of what we teach as irrelevant.

“Black children are Americans, not Africans.”

- ☑ Black children are Americans and as Americans need the same quality education as do other Americans.
- ☑ American education is interwoven into the fabric of American life. Our Democracy, our political structure, our economic structure, our purpose, vision, and our identity are fundamentally connected to our education. Rejecting citizenship often lowers the motivation for scholarship.
- ☑ Rejecting the citizenship allows one to escape the obligation and responsibilities that go along with it.
- ☑ To deny their citizenship is to demean the contribution that black people have made to this country since the first Africans were brought here in 1619.

“Black children have the same intellectual potential as other children.”

- ☑ Whether they know it or believe it, black children are capable of the same intellectual accomplishments as children of other races. However, at some point teachers must get a significant number of black children to demonstrate those capabilities if we are going to get them and the rest of the society to believe in the intellectual ability of black children.
- ☑ In truth, many of today’s black children really are intellectually inferior, but the inferiority has nothing to do with their color. They are inferior because they have embraced inferior values and an inferior work ethic. They have been allowed by their parents and teachers to become inferior.

“Black Children are not the property the Black Community’

- ☑ Black children are members of the black race, not properties of it. It is no more right for the black community to own black children than it was for white slave masters to own them.
- ☑ Black people must have the courage to let their children go and trust that they will return black enough to be recognized.
- ☑ Black people don't encourage their children to embrace the larger culture. This becomes evident in their lack of social involvement at predominantly white schools and in mainstream activities.
- ☑ White people have the right to lead, love, correct, guide black children in spite of what black people say or think. White teachers do not have to get permission from self appointed black leaders, or even black parents to teach black Children to be their best and to claim their fair share of the American dream. In fact, since white people are closer to the movers and shakers of America, they may actually be in a better position to help black children succeed than black people themselves.

“The Children are our future”

- ☑ Teachers really do touch the future and determine through their work with children what kind of future we will have.