



Critical Race Theory

What is Critical Race Theory?



Critical Race Theory is a set of ideas holding that racial bias is inherent in many parts of western society, especially in its legal and social institutions, on the basis of their having been primarily designed for and implemented by white people.

Why is it under attack?



There is a lot of inaccurate information about what CRT is. One of the biggest myths about CRT is that teaches that all white people are inherently racist and that certain groups are inherently superior or inferior. This misinformation has understandably created a lot of concern, but it is wholly inaccurate.

What does CRT in K-12 Look Like



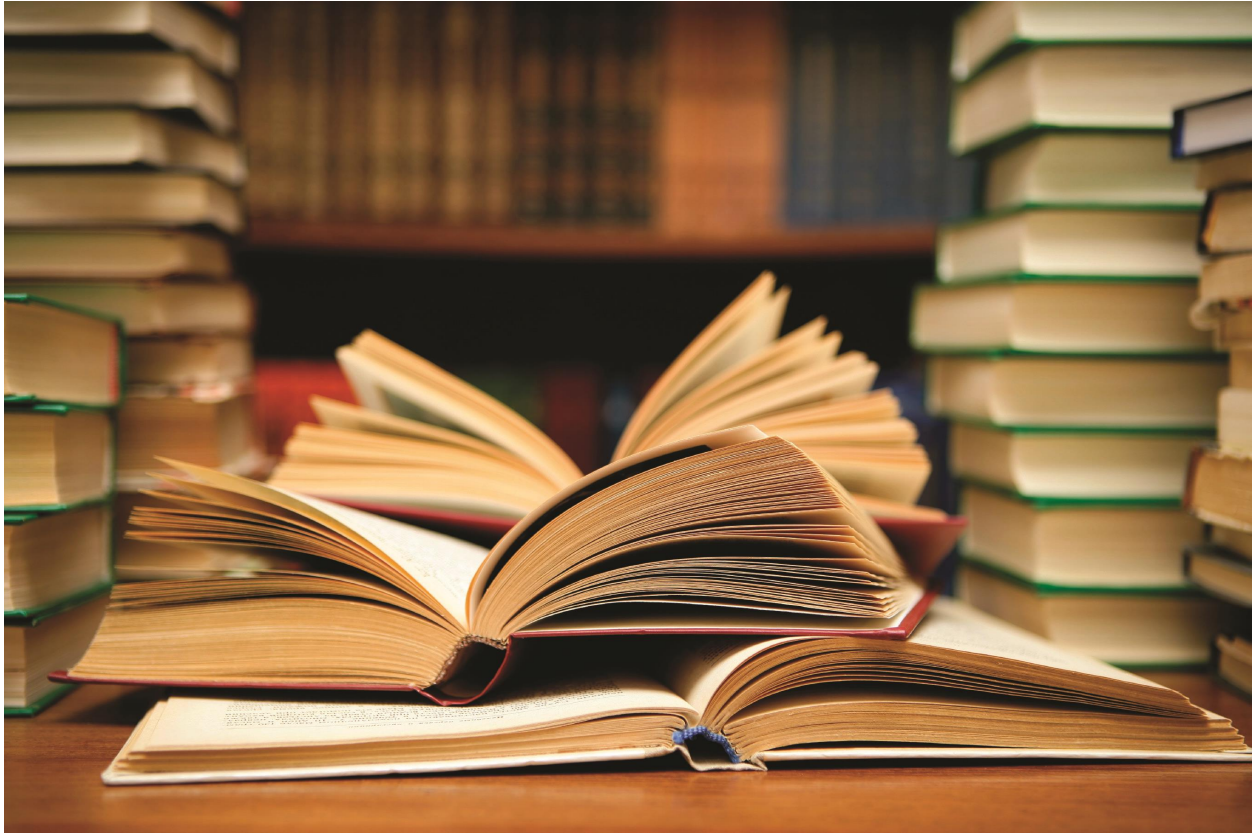
CRT in K-12 grades starts with an accurate teaching of American History. Specifically, it requires teaching the history of minoritized peoples.

Why is it important?



CRT is important for all students because having a better understanding of American History and how it relates to present day society leads to better outcomes for all people.

What can you do?



You can help by writing letters to your educators and legislators letting them know that you support CRT and want educators who teach it to be protected. Buy banned books, buy them, read them, share them, and donate them to schools and libraries.

Other Resources



Find your local representative-

<https://elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>

Minority Owned Bookstores That Sell Banned Books

Semicolon Bookstore in Chicago

515 N. Halsted St. Chicago, IL 60642

<https://www.semicolonchi.com/>

The Underground Bookstore

1727 E. 87th St. Chicago, IL

<https://www.undergroundbookstore.com/>

Bliss Books and Wine <https://www.blissbooksandwine.com/>

The Lit Bar <https://bookshop.org/shop/thelitbar>

Banned Book List

- How to Be An Antiracist- Ibram X. Kendi Stamped (for kids) - Ibram X. Kendi
- Lawn Boy - Jonathan Evison
- The Absolute True Diary of a Part Time Indian- Sherman Alexi
- The Hate You Give- Angie Thomas
- Dear Martin - Nic Stone
- The Bluest Eye- Toni Morrison
- Beloved- Toni Morrison
- There Eyes Were Watching God- Zora Neale Hurston
- To Kill A Mockingbird- Harper Lee
- The Freedom Schools- Jon Hale
- Don't Ask Me Where I'm From- Jennifer DeLeon
- #Not Your Princess- Lisa Charleyboy
- Fantasy Island- The Betrayal of Puerto Rico- Ed Morales
- Our America-A Hispanic History of the U.S. -Felipe Fernandez Armesto
- When You Look Like Us- Pamela N. Harris
- More Happy Than Not- Adam Silvera
- An Emotion of Great Delight- Tahereh Mafi
- Sari, Not Sari- Sonya Singh
- The Silence That Binds Us- Joanna Ho

Letter Templates



Sample Letter to Teacher

_____ 202_

Dear **Mr./Mrs.** _____

My name is **(your name)** and I'm **(child's name)'s** parent. **(Child's name)** is in your **(class)** this year. I wanted to introduce myself and tell you a bit about our family.

We are a multicultural family, and we value the perspectives, history and traditions of all cultures. We value critical thinking as a key skill and feel it is important to teach our kids to think for themselves. With your support we hope to raise kids that are kind, welcoming, rational and open-minded. I'm grateful every year for the teachers that help my kids learn the importance of these traits. We also believe in learning about the shared stories of our past – even when they are hard, sad, difficult, or unjust. We believe that our kids deserve an education that accurately depicts American history – our past, present and future.

I know there is a lot of conversation about what students are being taught in classrooms and I want you to know that we support you as an educator. I know some parents may contact you with their opinions about what you should or should not be teaching and particularly about assigned readings and projects that promote civic activism and even classroom libraries.

I understand that these intrusions have made your job more difficult than ever. But as a parent in the community, I understand that these are decisions that must be made by educators, and I will support whatever decisions you make.

I just want to say I support your professional expertise. I believe in the authority and responsibility of teachers to make curriculum decisions that will help kids learn to think creatively and act responsibly both at school and in our community.

I also love to buy books for classrooms – especially ones that support diversity, equity, and justice education. I have included a list of such books, please let me know if you would like me to purchase any of them for your classroom or school library.

You do important work for all our kids, and I am here to support you and all of **(your child's name)** teachers.

Your Name

Sample Letter to Legislator

Month Day, 202__

Dear Representative _____,

My name is _____, and I am a resident of your district. Specifically, I am a resident of _____ with _____ school aged children in District _____.

I am aware of the political controversy regarding Critical Race Theory (CRT) and I am writing to ask that you act now to protect the teaching of CRT in K-12 education and beyond. It is important to first understand what CRT is and what it is not. CRT is not meant to teach kids that any race is superior or that white people are inherently racist. Rather CRT, aims to analyze the intersection between race, history and law. At the elementary and high school levels, CRT calls for an accurate teaching of American History that includes the stories of people from all races and cultures.

Unfortunately, American History cannot be told accurately without teaching the history of slavery, segregation and Jim Crow laws. These historical events include concepts of white privilege, systemic inequality and inherent bias. It is important that our children and young adults are taught about the causes and effects of racism. I understand that these conversations can be uncomfortable, but they don't have to be. By understanding the experiences of other people and cultures we can work together to create a better education system and America for everyone.

[Use this space to explain why teaching CRT is important to you] Particularly concerning to me is the lack of teaching related to the history of Hispanic and Latinx people in our school district. Currently, there is no discussion in our schools of the segregation of Latinx people during the Jim Crow era, the American policy known as operation wetback, the Porvenir Massacre or the plight of Mexican civil rights leaders during the civil rights era. These historical events are just as important as the signing of the Constitution, the founding of our nation and the civil war.

Our kids deserve an education that includes the teaching of the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion and that accurately depicts the history of their ancestors.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your Name Here

Links to Additional Resources and Google Drive

[Critical Race Theory Toolkit](#)

<https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/map-where-critical-race-theory-is-under-attack/2021/06>

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