

Missing the “I” in Education: How to Collaboratively Address an Urban Identity Crisis

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Meet Marc



Problem

- Lack of affirming images in curricular materials
- Students lack historical grounding
- Empowering identities are not purposefully made available at school

Purpose

- ❑ Use the curriculum to present empowering views of Black people.
- ❑ Critically examine the influence of critical discourse on racial identity narratives of a group of 5th grade students attending school in a large urban district.

Significance

Racial Identity and Academic Identity are Codependent
(Cross, 1991)

Decisions concerning creating and accepting identities are made daily(Holland et al., 1998)

Target Population Often Seen as “At-Risk” (Stevenson, 2012)

Perceived Curricular Mismatch (Camangian, 2015)

Research Questions

Does engagement in critical race discourse, over the course of five months, influence the racial identity development of 5th grade African American students?

In what ways are students influenced by critical race discourse?

How do teacher guided conversations about race influence students' narrative about self and identity?

Summary of the Literature Review

- ❖ Black identity is necessary for social and emotional health as well as academic achievement (Lea, 2014; Nasir, 2011).
- ❖ Inconsistencies exist as to what identity development looks like and any particular identity stance or outlook a person should have.
- ❖ Questions exist about relationships between racial identity profiles and societal participation

Methodology

- ❖ Qualitative Critical Action Research
- ❖ Inductive Thematic Analysis

Action Research

- Voice
- Participant and Researcher Outcomes
- Social Change
- Improved Praxis
- Transformation

Role

Positionality

Collaborator

Insider

Teacher

Researcher

Black Situational
Identity



Study Timeline

Questionnaire

- August 10, 2016

Critical Discussions

- August 17, 2016 –
October 7, 2016

Member Check

- October 13, 2016

Critical Discussions

- October 16 -
December 14, 2016

Questionnaire

- December 16, 2016

Member Check

- January 13, 2017



Study Participants

Data Sources

- Questionnaire (Pre and Post)
- Discussion Reflections
- Researcher Journal
- Reflexivity Journal