

Source 1: Article

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar15/vol72/num06/Making-Diverse-Classrooms-Safer-for-Learning.aspx>

In *Margery B. Ginsberg's* article "Making Diverse Classrooms Safer for Learning" she talks about how teachers and their limited knowledge on diversity hurts many students. She explains how in America, classrooms are filled with predominantly white American teachers who connect their teaching to the values of the common European American man. This is rough for students with diverse cultural backgrounds because they lack classmate and teacher connections that make them feel appreciated in the classroom. It also puts a restriction on their learning because they are being forced to learn from one perspective compared to a wider view. Teachers shouldn't feel the need to change their values and opinions however, they should show more respect to both sides of a story with no judgment. Lastly, by connecting to their students teachers should more fully engage in activities where students feel free to express themselves.

This article is very useful to my topic because it shows the lack of expansion the curriculum has made to teach from not only the European American perspective. With schools having majority white teachers diversity and connections lack between students and teachers which then hinders students' education. This is where the question, why doesn't more schools have black study programs comes into play. These programs are needed so students can feel that they are in a safe environment to express their feelings and also have the chance to speak to someone who can relate to their experiences. For instance, one day in high school my classmates and I were speaking to a teacher about how gentrification is becoming a big deal in Brooklyn and how it's causing stores to up their prices. While my friends I believed this had a negative effect on the community my teacher thought it was great because that meant the economy would grow.

"If educators could help students acknowledge underlying cultural perspectives and discuss them respectfully, we would make classrooms safer for learning. Yet school-based conversations about differing cultural values are often concluded before they gain traction." These two sentences stuck out to me because it shows how groups and programs are desperately needed for students who want answers to questions the education system doesn't want to discuss.

Source 2: Youtube

<https://youtu.be/-Ke3TURO2Q8>

In this video released by Education Week we are introduced to ten black students who believe schools have a lot of improving to do in the issue of race and racism. They introduce how faculty should listen to students and provide them with what they need instead of what they think is best for students. Many principals overlook students' complaints and proposals in making

schools feel like a safer place. New policies and rules need to be put into effect to show that justice is served for all and not just a select few. It is the right of faculty members to tell a student when they are being disrespectful instead of automatically placing them on punishment. Two students also speak on counseling and how more guidance counselors and advisors of mixed races are needed in the education system. Students need to feel that they have the support of someone who knows what they are going through inside the classroom and out. Lastly, a student named Davion Pilgrim states that a huge problem with schools today is their curriculum, students don't get opportunity to learn life skills and also more ethnic groups need to be taught in history especially if your school has prodomentally blacks and hispanics.

I absolutely agree with this video. It's the twenty-first century and schools are still lacking many elements. For one the suspension system is biased, when a student is disrespectful to a teacher they are typically placed on punishment however, if a student calls a black student the N word in a negative connotation they are told to apologize with no punishment instead of being taught why that word should never be used. Programs are needed for students of color so they know they aren't alone. In these programs they can be taught skills that a young black man or woman is gonna need to know once they're in their twenties providing for themselves.

"As people of color and as youth we know what we need, we don't need teachers to tell us what we need so I think that the most important thing is to give a seat at the table."Jaden Adeyemi. I chose this quote because it shows me that I'm not the only one who sees this issue and believes a change needs to occur. Other students from across America also witness how blacks are withheld from conversations, lessons and activities and believes that our voices should be heard.