







The Writers of 432

By Ms. Torres and Mr. Adames' 9th– 10th grade classes at International Community High School

Behind the Book / New York







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The Writers of 432

By Ms. Torres and Mr. Adames' 9th– 10th grade classes at International Community High School Behind the Book's mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

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We would like to thank two of our generous funders: The Guru Krupa Foundation, whose contribution made this program possible, and The Korein Foundation, who supported the creation and publication of this book.

In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

Dedication

We dedicate this book to future readers, especially those inspired by our hosts at Behind the Book. We hope that you can connect with what we are sharing with the world by reading our poems.

About the Program

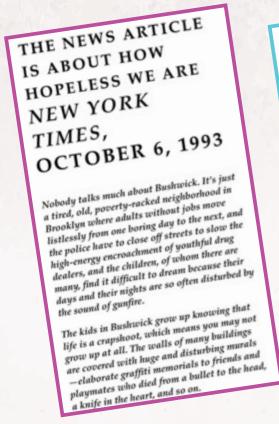
What factors make a successful life and who determines what success looks like? Can we reclaim agency over our lives by writing our own stories?

The ninth and tenth graders in Ms. Torres and Mr. Adames' classes closely examined these complicated questions during this program through readings, media analysis, and art work including their own original writings. The result was an inspiring multidisciplinary project.

Students read *When We Make It* by Elisabet Velasquez, a novel-in-verse navigating the intersection of family, poverty, mental illness, sexuality, and racism for a Nuyorican teenager, Sarai, in gentrifying 1990s Bushwick, Brooklyn.

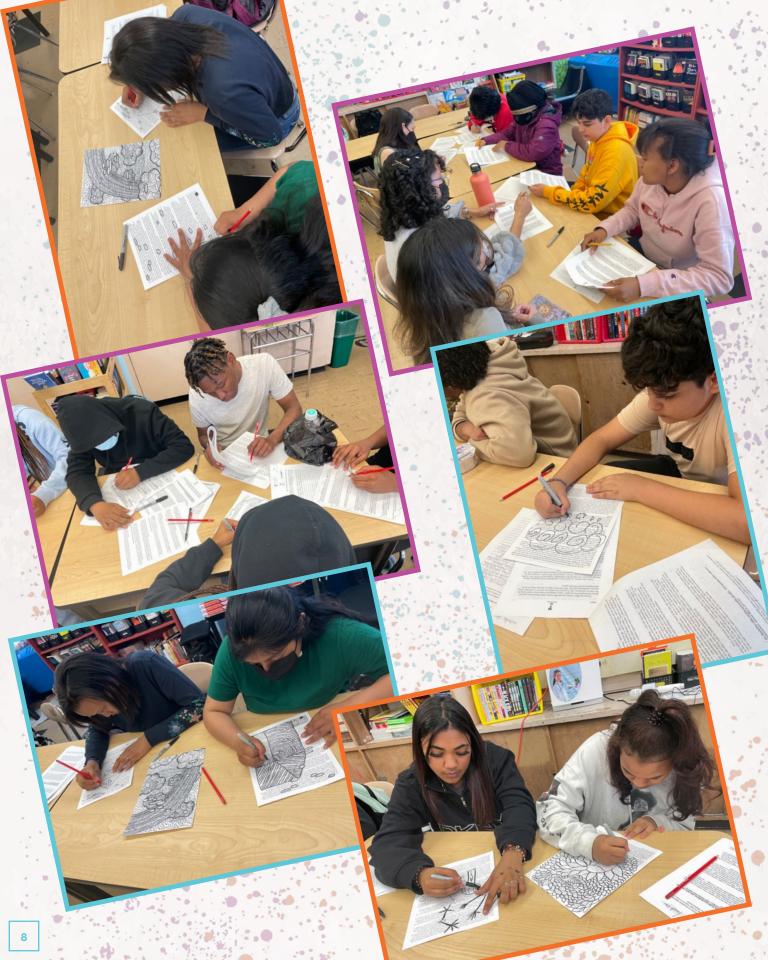
During Elisabet's visit, the class was treated to the author's performance of some of the book's poems and discussed how the content related to their lives. She stressed Sarai's ongoing struggle with agency and self-worth. Mispronouncing names as a sign of disrespect resonated with students as many exclaimed that it happened to them "all the time."

In the research component, the class read and discussed news articles connecting themes from *When We Make It* to today. These included homelessness, crime, racism, school curriculum, LGBTQIA+ rights, gender issues, sexual assault, and community violence. Inspired by Elisabet's own blackout poetry in the book, the program asked students to use these news articles as the foundation for their own blackout poems. Black-out poetry takes an existing piece of fiction, news story, poem—any written record and uses a black marker to cover segments of the text until a new story emerges. Often the new story contradicts the original text and is all the more meaningful for it. The poet can reclaim the original text's narrative meaning they can control the story being told. Appropriating your opposition's words to write your own story can be a powerful form of healing and activism. With the support of multi-lingual volunteers, students used markers to black out portions of the article text to rewrite the author's narrative from their perspective. Led by BtB's teaching artist Candice Humphries, students created symbols on top of the blackedout text to visually represent the content of the poem. They were encouraged to see how art can provide alternative ways of expressing ideas.



IF THE NEWS ARTI-CLE WAS ABOUT POLICE BRUTALITY Bushwick. where adults without jobs mov listlessly from one boring day to the next and the police have slowed the l outhful om there ar uany, who find it difficult to dream becaus children, of who their days and their nlaw d from a bullet

Elisabet's blackout poetry in When We Make It



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FATOUMATA	10
MICHELL	11
JUSTIN	12
ANGEL E.	13
ANGEL M.	14
NAOMI	15
LISBETH	16
BRYAN	• 17
JOSTIN	18
ANGELICA	19
GREGORI	20
SLAYANA	21
EMILIO	22
FLOR	23
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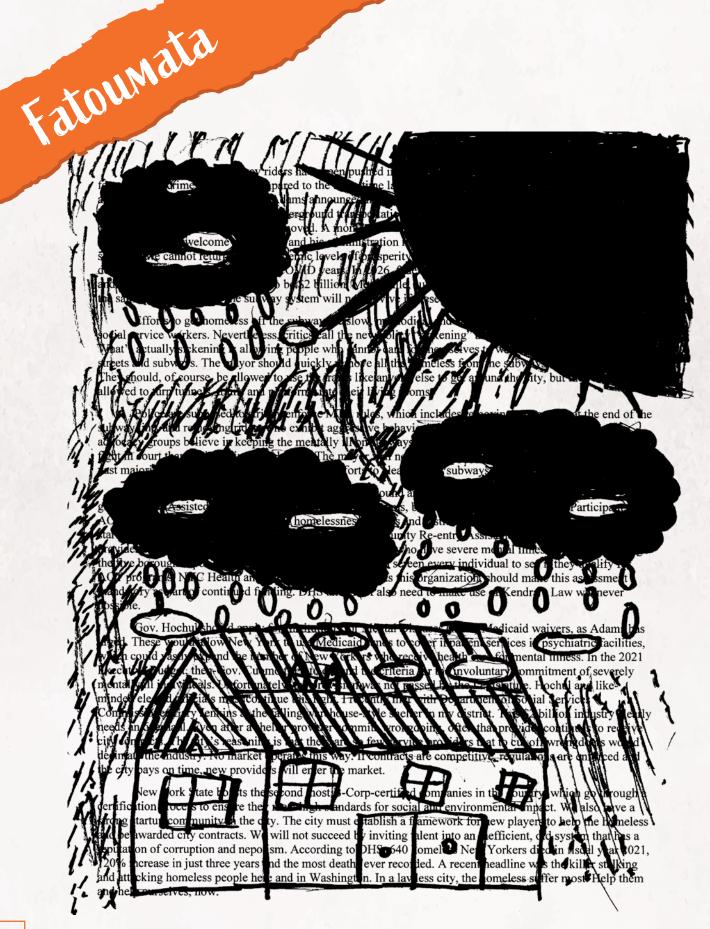
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Police are supposed to prictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the line, and rem ving riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If y groups believe in keyping the <u>inentally</u> ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a purt than violence in our subways. The mayor will never be able to <u>appease his critics</u>, but I join the rity of New Yerkers in upporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

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They didn't ask anybody who looked like me what they thought about the Constitution. Allegations of widespread government-selectioned suppression of minority voters also continue to persist. Therefore, according to CRT, minorities are forced to five in system designed to oppress them and the system is too flawed to allow for any shorm internally.

CPT: Non-Whites Cannot Succeed Within the System

Perhaps most important to CRT and minority in America. This was more and American History and work, plannin

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That is the thought process on Brooks and Pames exception of "White people and Black people should not have any contact with each other". Inmes argued. A June 2020 tweet by Brooks was even more direct: "[W]hen we start bakk knotkin white reople TF out ion wannamear it...one old whiteppl 2, KNOKK DEM TF OUT!! PERIOD."

Of ourse, t of the CR who chaft these t d pa oven ent don't believe their o Kendi, P igs. Pron s Ibra DiAngelo have achi endous t vithin the succes against. They are ab violence and poverty t plague man

The corporate, education and elementary on the corporate construct score of the relationship point by peddling CRT propagan a score of a cargely in sulated from the corporate the chings cause. Unfortunately for passeng risk in the elementary of the score of the base of A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

"Within 60 seconds of pining," she wrote in the post from December, "I was verbally and sexually harassed – 3-4 male avatare, with viale voices, essentially, but virtually gang raped my avatar." She details watching her avatar get sexually ssallted by a bandful of male avatars, who took photos and sent her comments like "don't preted you code" love i."

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Res, inch for Kabuni Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds to everyone 18 years and older in the United States and Canada on Dec. 9 after an invite-only leta test a year ago. It features the sands of virtual worlds by creators and is free to downlead for all users, but Meta plans to monetize the same by facilitating e-commerce and advertising, according to CNEC, sinnar to how it profits from its social me ha ventures Facebook and Instagram. Meta did not menediately respond to a request from USATODAY to comment.

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After her initial in a post about the acident, Nina acceleratel recount receiving comments calling it "a pathetic cry for attertic " or urging her not to pick a female avour next time. Others have raised questions about whether share a simulation would include a concern, Path says in the post

viewed study in 2009 and public ted in the journal Communication In res es a peer Research that in tigates the "Pred their soch behavior on the re Fir avatar, on and offine. The players who were assigned unfer and more attractive avatars better in the games and rego fated more aggressively in person afterward. But the link do games and violent be avid offscreen has been called into question. The American attractivenes 01 th tended to perfor between viol nt Psychological Association releasing a statement sa of a causal relationship as of March 2020.

The topic has been widely rebated and surface over the years, Some longitudinal studies show a prelation between violant video somes and signs if aggression in children and other research disputing it.Patel points of that the metave set's bed using increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm she experienced in her avatar shocked and offended har.

Jos an Jones, presider to Boso. Legal Services, an investigation agency specializing in cyber and social media, bys its unlikely fait has a source gal case for sexual harassment but acknowledges that harassment in the retaverse is an energing space. He says the case would depend on several factors, such as the specific comments people made and whether her avater reveals any identifiable information, such as her name. Given that she doesn't have a hure following, Jones says, it's unlikely she could sue for defamation, but she could file a civil restraining order to prevent at freque happening again.

Bureven that has challenges, Jone Lays, because the male avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to trick fown. And it could be difficult to get here on a case like this. "With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if it is estimated activable, you would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law inforcement agency legitimately willing to help," Jones says.

Justin

mer and struck with ubway riders have been pushed in front of trains lawlessness have created forime is up 80% competition the some time lost that Home essness an emergency in response, Mayor Adams announced hi Subway Safety Plan d remove the rst week of enforcement, round transportation system. During t homele mpments still wist. While the A month offer rollout, homele only 22 homeless individuals were removed. mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with Without ate more urgency. ship and revenue from fare subways, we cannot return to pre-pandinic levels f prosperity. Subv nulus money will have e deral C)VID down significantly compared to pre-COVID vears. he has increased 80% completed to Meanwine, subway cri (op and the MTA's deficit is projected to be \$2 is continue. not survive if th the same period in 2021. The subway system

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AragelM In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams) announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with memory. Without safe

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subways, we cannot return to pre-part down significantly compared to preand the MTA's deficit is projected to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these tren

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new polic What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyon allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living r

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To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as I AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalize start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assist provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe me the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRAN should screen every individ AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals which supports this organization, she mandatory as part of continued funding possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Med urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover inpatient se which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care f Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntation mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legi minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department

Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. This \$2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after a shelter provider commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is are to few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operate ts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the man

New York State boasts the second most B-Corp-certif certification process to ensure they meet high standards for se strong startup community in the city. The city must establish and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by invit reputation of corruption and nepotism. According

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Tames opened fire in a <u>New York City subway</u>, injuring 23 people In November, Darrell IV through a Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, killing & people and injuring 60

Both perpetrate are black, which is a bit unusual given that mass shootings have historically been perpetrated by white me more significantly, both Brooks and James had expressed radical views on social media advocating violence towards whites in the lead-up to their attacks, strongly suggesting race relations were a key motive for their acts of violence. (Naturally, the <u>mainstream media</u> has neglected to find out if it was indeed their motivation. Units for Quintez Brown, a<u>Black Lives Matter</u> activist who was charged with the attempted assassmation of Douisville mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg in February, and Micah Johnson, who killed five Dallas police officers in 2016. Meanwhile, public perceptions about the state of race relations in the country have plummeted

These anecdates, particularly during increasing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been a durinnent to racial progress rather than a force for good. The harmful impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considering several of its basic tenets.

CRT Teaches America Is Racist

Bryan

Last wee

Brooks drove others.

The New York Times Magazine's "1619 Project," the brainchild of Nikole Hannah-Jones, expresses a historical view in which America's true founding was in 1619, the year African slaves were first brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed and analyzed through a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, argues that the U.S. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a "slavocracy," and criticizes Abraham Lincoln's approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last June from our very own National Archives argued that America's founding documents are steeped in (systemic racism)"

Philadelphia-based attorney and radio host Michael Coard perhaps best sums up the CRT view of American history, as he decried the Fourth of July as "a celebration of kidnapping, transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, whippings, rapes, castrations, lynchings and enslavement." The conclusion, then, is that the history of slavery persists impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

CRT Teaches American Government Is Racist

The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution is racis, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Second Amendment have all recently been attacked as systemically racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation's Elie Mystal, "[t]he Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists.



The usual suspects say darkly that Mayor Eric Adams is Rudy Giuliant in disguise, and it is to laugh. Really, New York City should be so lucky. The city's progressive cabat and the usual media claque claim the rookie mayor supporting public-safety policies amount to warmed over Giuliani era jackbootery that reinforces past failures and thels present anger. On? Which failures — and, really, what anger? It seems that eight years of de Blasio dystonic isn't enough for some people. They need a steady diet of preventable public disorder to be happy — and they mean to do everything they can to gin it up

This explains the otherwise mystifying opposition b Adams' receipts cleanup of 250 or so vagrant villages around the five boroughs — filthy, rat-plaqued disease vectors fashioned from cardboard and stolen plastic sheeting. Truly, people of conscience would n't wish them on their worst enemies. They were endemic when Giuliani became mayor in 1994 — but more or used disappeared shortly thereafter. There's no mystery about what happened. Mayora determination to be rid of mean commentation of humane and very expensive social-s wices alternatives, largely did that ob It remains to be seen whether Adams can replicate that success — he's certainly sailing into strong headwinds — bout there doesn't seem to be much doubt about one thing: He's as morally offended by the hovels as Galiani was a generation ago. And he seems determined to do something a put them.

Cue the blowback. "Mayo Adams has launched an offensive against New York City's most vulnerable," proclaimed the City Council's progressive caucus. This makes clear the mayor's intention to return to the failed broken windows holicies of the 1990s." "Back to the Giuliani era," proclaimed one media headline. "Adams' order to clear homeless camps ignites fury in New York." Yet the only fury placed in evidence in the accompanying story came from the council's programives and their allies, so the opposition to the mayor's street cleanup seems — at beac — to be circular.

Certainly polls now that New Yorkers in general aren't the lear bit angry with Adams' efforts — quite the contrary. They'recerrified of nime, they hate disorde and they standbehind the mayor. As for the claim that Adams is embracing "failed broken windows policies of the 1990s," well, one can only hope. As publicsafety policies go, mey certainly got the job done: By now it's a liché, but lew York truly did become America's safesting city, and it remained so until everything began to purave during the benighted de Blasio years. There's no disputing that Giuliani's approach to public safety was special. But there were nearly 2,000 murders a year field then; crime was out of control and the city's public space there overrun by addicts and the insane. Tough times called for tough policies.

Today's challenges aren't quite so daunting - not yet, any vay es are frightening and t the b the institutional impediments to recovery are substantial. There is the ma ter of A lar tment and hm staying power. Yes, he ran on a pro-public-safety platform, and he says allo oftl But some of his policies can best be described as half-measures - his anti-nun initiative comes t and he's given to walking back controversial statements. (One day he's for qualityf-life maybe not so bol cing hexi a much.) A true test of the man will come, inevitably, with his fil isis Until then, let's ioler just say that Eric Adams is an institutionally lonely man dimbin ver ll mo

There is, for example, the City Council. Back in the day, the council comprised a couple of inspired leaders and a gaggle of amiable hacks — that is, it rarely got a the way. Today the council is riddled with progressive termite tunnels; it seems truly dedicated to making matters worse — case in point being its idiotic objections to Adams' vagrant crackdown. Ditto the Albany establishment, well known for fueling New York's current street-crime crisis with ill-considered penal-code "reforms" Whether the modest rollbacks of those changes reported to be part of a pending state budget settlement will be sufficient is u clear — but probably not. Adams really shouldn't hold his breath waiting to find out.

Now it becomes a matter of how willing New Yorkers are to share their public spaces with addicts and crazy people — and their streets with violent criminals. They'll have some say in the matter in the June 28 primary and again in November; until then, probably the best they can do is offer comfort and support to their new mayor. He's not Rudy Giuliani, but he's headed in the right direction, and it's hard to ask for more than that.

It wasn't that long ago when my three adult child were little kids Throughout their childhood never had to worry about what was being tught in their schools I never h -v mar a student of th opposite sex was going to play on my enforce s sports cams or use their school bathrooms Most important s, counselors, and administrators might deliberately concert what was being in school But nigh oh, h hes have changed in the 10 years so n i Dat graduated y are worried that critical race theory and good Many parents tod ng taught wi the r ide en Weither was include were in s nts' trowle ge (eurricu um whe

id F on DeSantis for ad ng the conc s have ab changing orida rns hed the Parental F g schoor curricu critics as the um DeSa Education bill 8 ceremo vialion ill, the new law Dot 't Say classroon action on gender identity and sexual str igh third grade, grade, s ed cation in Florida must be age orientation in kind erga appropriate. he l w empowers parents to sue school districts over violations DeSantis said the law was needed iden's of LGBTQ indoct ination of young children in Figure da schools. A an example, he because of in displayed LGBTO, ducational materials including a "Genderbroad Pel " chart th was found in Florida classrooms and used to teach your children about gender ider aty and al orien

w, without her knowledge or DeSantis anuary Littlei in talked about Aft florida a transgender oming support plan for her 13-year-old consent. 2 ool creat daughter. "Social tra dical and ment nealth intervention that can leaving significant decisions that n is a hental and physical well-eing," said Littlejohn, who is a licen will impact the child counselor in Flori Often socia transition is the first step toward medical transition. And schools a e grossly s without parenal involvement." In addition to the P ak ng these ste unqualified to be rental Rights urriculum transp rency] ight to information on Education bill, D tis signed a gisla tion giving parents the the curriculum an ry books n their childre s scho ar, De the Parents E s. Las als signed s the govern ent from infringing Rights, which pro hib th rents to direct e upbrip ing, education and hear are of minor c ildre

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able online information such as eto, state Sen. Ryan Aument, is crafting before

good idea to teach this kind of matchial to young chi iren.

are encouraged to include in their curriculum. While the website states the Pennsylvania school, the information on the websit

sylvania lacks the parenta rights and cur cu f vetoed transparency in educati on leg ion course és a new edu h bill.

laws that now exist in Florida. Last would have required Pennsylvania d textbooks being used. Undeterred according to Aument's legislative director, suppanie huchanan, the bill would require schools to notify parents before using any sexually explicit ts to check out librar books with such material.

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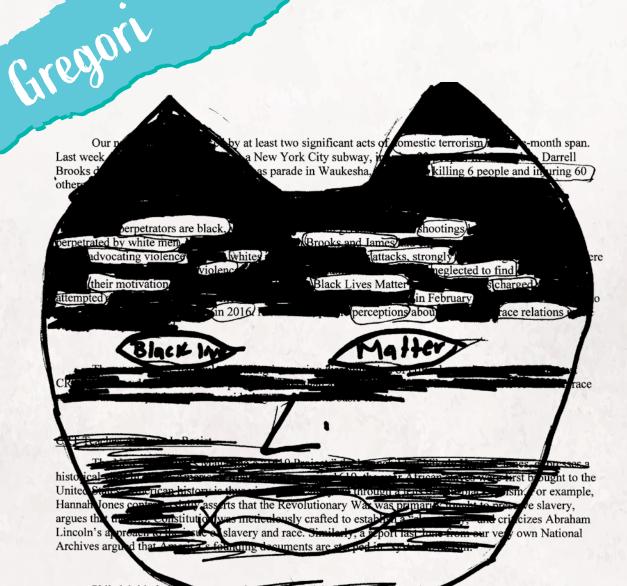
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he state De artment of Education website has information on equity and inclusion that school distr cal race theory is not tau cri uses many of the color pts from this controversial so justice movement. Of the website, under equity and inclusion, the Department of Education provides information on LGETQ inclusive curricula starting in kindergarten. I agree with Gov. DeSantis that it's not

According to recent polls voters across partylines disapprove of teaching critical acce theory and gender ideology to young childrin in prodic schools. For instance, a recent online pol sponsored by the Democratic Congressional Campair n Committee found t at 61% of of sw ng district vote at 61% of these voters agreed w the statement. "Den crats are traching kids is young as five critical race theory, which teaches that America is a racist courtry and that white eople st." The Wall Street Journal r cently published the results of a new poll by Pub Opinion Strateges. cording to the poll, 61% of respondents agree, with the Florid Parent e categorized by ponnical part, and demographics, 67% Rights in Ed sation law Whe articipants we pol parents, 60% of suburban voters and 55% of Democratic voters supported the parental rights

It's hard to imagine being the parent of young children today deal with the gradual, unrelenting push from the left to implement critical race theory and gender ideology in public schools. Hopefully, Pennsylvania parents will teach woke politicians a lesson at the ballot box come November.



Philadelphia-based as energy and even the fourth of July as a more presenting back sums up the CRT view of American history, as he decried the fourth of July as a more present of trational presenting transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, wappings, rapes, ca trations, lynchings and enslavement." The conclusion, then, is that the history of slavery persists, impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

CRT Teaches American Government Is Racist

The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution is racist, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Second Amendment have all recently been attacked as systemically radist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation's Elie Mystal, "[t]he Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists. Slavana when ny three adult children were little kids throughout their childhood, I ong ag wasn' viat was being taught in men senoors. Thever had to worry thet a student of the was going to blay openy children's sports teams prove their school bathrooms Most importantly, pposite sex s never afraid that teachers, counsetors, and administrators might deliberately concer, what was being taug in school. But oh, how times have enanged in the 10 years ince my youngest child graduated from high to Many parents today are worried that critical race theory and gender ideology re being taught without the its' knowledge or consent. Neither was included in the curreculum when my kiels were in school. I applaur Florida Go, Ron DeSantis for addressing the concerns many parents have about the charging school curricy um. DeSantis size of the earental Rights in Education fill at a March 28 ceremony. Dubbed by critics as the Don't Say Gay" bill the new law promons any property instruction or gender identity sexual ughtind grade. After third grade fex education mist be orientation in kinderganen and The law empowers parents to sue school districts over violations. DeSantis said the law was needed because of incidents of LGBTQ indoctrination of young children in Florida schools. As an example, be displayed LCTB-P educational materials including a Genderbread Person chart that was found in Flori classrooms and used to teach young cinturen about condoi identity and sexual orientation. After DeSantio spore, Florida mom January Littlejohn talked about how, without her knowled consent, a Forida middle school cheeter a transgender ender nonconforming support plan for her 13-year-old ٧. daughter. "Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention that can lead to significant decisions that will impact the child's mental and physical went-being, said Littlejohn, ho is a licensed mental health counselor in Florida. "Other social transition is the first step toward medical transition. And schools are grossly inqualified to be taking these sets without parental involvements in addition to the Parental Rights in Education bill, DeSantis signed unciculum transparentey regis station giving parents the right a unformation the curriculum and abrary books in their children's schools. Last year, Descents signed the Parents Bill of nfringing on the rights of parents to direct the upbring Rig this, which prohibits the gov minor children and health care of ducation the parente right urriculum tre supericy law Floric versed transparence December Oos tion legislation, which w ed P n Rv in educ online information sug se summarine an xtheoks bring ed. Undeterre n bilL A Aument's l gislativ diffector, Stephanie I hoois to no ity parer ally explicit with such ma dents to check out library l mate in the ourrich before allowing s web we has information on age The state Department and inclusion that service district curriculum. While the website states that er arcouraged to mainde mineir the inform THE SCHOOLS tion on the second USES MEMORY CHIEF MIL ts from this conferencial social instice movement. On the websit , under eq ity and inclusion of Education provides information on LATDO inclusiv curri ala s arting Santis unavit's not a n kinderge age age

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period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

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Police are supposed to strictly enforce WTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the ubway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and chate unsanitary environments. If you groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a n cour than violence in our subways. The mayor will hever be able to appease his critics, but I join the najority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

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individuals who have severe mental timess and are RAN should screen every individual to see if they s, which supports this organization, should make this ass mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and HKA also need to make use mendra's La

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New York State nd most B-Corp-certified companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a ity in the city The city must establish a framework for new provers to help the homeless strong startup comm e awarded city contraction will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, cure and b stom that has a reputation of comption and nepotim According to DHS, 640 homeless New 2002 kirs died in http://www.2021. 120% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking a.d attacking h tess peoply here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now

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These successions particularly during a creasing disservination of critical race theory (CRT), august CRT has been a during on the resid program rather than a force for good. The kernful impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considering of yera to us basis there as

CRT Teaches America Is Racist

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The New York Three Magazine's "1019) roject' the brainchild of Mikole Hannah Jones, expresses a distorted view in which America's true forming was in 1619, the year A rises of an interview for the branchild of the second secon

Philadelphia-b radio host M Coar b the CRT view of mey American history, as h ansporting/buying/selling 1 the rth of July ebra of kidnar human beings, separat and enslavement." The whipp tions, lyn conclusion, then, is th an life to this very day.

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Edward (In recent nonths, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with it of me is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergence Ain response. Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safe y Plan to reduce erime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. Same inst week of cinonly 22 homeless individuals were removed A month after rollout, nomeless encampments still exist. While the mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must ct with more urgency. Without safe SUPP CILLUP 120 160-20 THYE! WE'Y

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To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRAN should screep every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra's Law whenever possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Hochul and likeminded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. This \$2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after a shelter provider commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is that there are so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

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A woman in a blog experienced a real horro and sexually ressentially virtually gans apeorary avatasent he comments don't pretend you didn't love it The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabuni Venture an immersive echnology company

After her initial blog post about the incident, Nin pathetic cry for attention" and urging her not to pick a f about whether getting hurt in a virtual world is truly a c

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In response, Patel cites a peer-reviewed study in Research that investigates the "Proteus Effect," which f attractiveness of their avatar, on and offline. The player tended to perform better in the games and negotiated m between violent video games and violent behavior offso Psychological Association releasing a statement saying as of March 2020. ecounts receiving comments calling it "a ext time. Others have raised questions ays in the post.

Mo testa

lished in the journal Communication le based their social behavior on the igned taller and more attractive avatars in person afterward. But the link lled into question. The American ient evidence" of a causal relationship

The topic has been widely debated and studied over the years, Some longitudinal studies show a correlation between violent video games and signs of aggression in children and other research disputing it.Patel points out that the metarerse is becoming increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm she experienced in her avata shoke an offended her

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But even that has challenges. Lotes says, because the nale avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. And it could be difficult to get help on hease like this "With the large majority or herassment that happens online, even if it is criminally actionable, you would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency legitimately willing to help," Jones says. A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon/Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabuni Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds to everyone 18 years and older in the United States and Canada on Dec. 9 after an invite-only beta test a year ago

Meta envisions a virtual world where digital avatars connect through work/travel or entertainment usin VR headsets. Zuckerberg has been bullish on the metaverse believing it could replace the internet as we know

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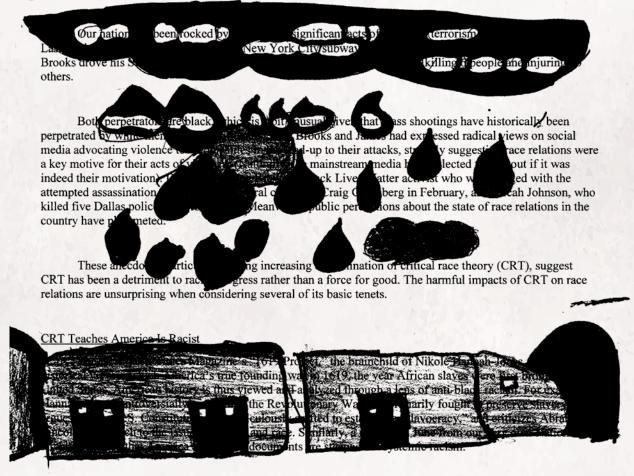
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But even that has challenges, Jones says, because the male avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. And it could be difficult to get help on a case like this. "With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if it is criminally actionable, you would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency legitimately willing to help," Jones says.

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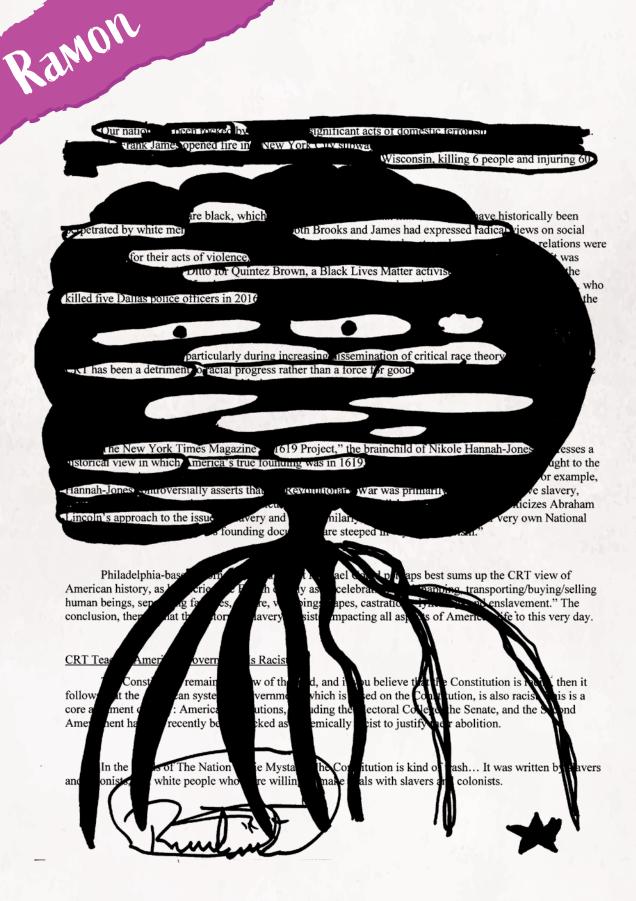


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Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow methodical and carried of social service workers Nevertheless, critics call the new policy "sickening" ar What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselv streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living room

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To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets.

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New York's has boasts the second mos B-Corp-certified companies in the country, which certification process to ensure their meet high standards for social and environmental mepace, strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for evolution of the city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent interiments in the ficient, or reputation of corruption and nepotium. According to DHS, 640 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, 120% increase in just the years are the most deaths ever recorded. A super boother was and help ourselves, now.

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Son verdenator are used wing it a of musual given then ness 4nootings investigation of a f norm perpetrated by white men More significantly, both Brooks and lames had expressed radical views on social needs advocating, violence to the whites the lead-up to the anacks, strong huggesting rac mations of the second se ations were key motive for nice. (Na ally, the mainsu cam media has ne ted to find out and was s acts of cir motivation). Ditto for Qu indeed t tez Brown, lack Lives Mat ctivist who w charged with the of Louisvill Craig Greenb h February tem ssassinatio oral cand Micah nson who killed new Dallas pol Meanwhile, public perceptions about the state of race reofficers in 2 ons in the dountry have plummeted.

These anecdotes, particularly during increasing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been a detriment to racial progress rather than a force for good. The harmful impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considering several of its basic tenets.

CRT Teaches America Is Racist

The New York Times Magazine's "1619 Project," the brainchild of Nikole Hannah-Jones, expresses a historical view in which America's true founding was in 1619, the year African slaves were first brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed and analyzed through a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, argues that the U.S. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a "slavocracy," and criticizes Abraham Lincoln's approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last June from our very own National Archives argued that America's founding documents are steeped in "systemic racism."

Philadelphia-based attorney and radio host Michael Coard perhaps best sums up the CRT view of American history, as he decried the Fourth of July as "a celebration of kidnapping, transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, whippings, rapes, castrations, lynchings and enslavement." The conclusion, then, is that the history of slavery persists, impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

CRT Teaches American Government Is Racist

The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution is racist, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Second Amendment have all recently been attacked as systemically racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation's Elie Mystal, "[t]he Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists.

And hroughout their childhood It wasn't th r schools. I never had to worry that a student of the never had being taught in opposite sex Most importantly, I blay o sports teams or use pathrooms. was being taught was neve om high school. in school raduated) oungest chil Many ritical rac and gender ideology a hout the orrie parents changing ab bed by school ulum. critic it the new law prohibits classroom instruct on on gender identity and sexual. hrough third grade After rientation in kindergarten s needed approp because displaye rida uaine classroon dge or consent, a E school created a transgender 13-year-old daughter. Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention decisions that will impact the child's mental and physical w al health schools are grossly counselor in Florida. unqualified to be taking the ental Rights in Education bill, DeSantis signed right to information on the curriculum and library books in igned the Parents Bill of Rights, which prohibits the government ents to direct the upbringing, education and health care of minor children Pennsylvania lacks the parental rights ency laws that now exist in Florida. Last December, Gov. Wolf vetoed ransparency in education legislation. nich would have required Pennsylvania schools to make available online information and textbooks being used. Undeterred by Wolf's veto, stat gislative director, Ste explicit material disapprove eaching critical race theory colog l of swing nder id these yote teaches that America is and beon The Implement

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A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

"Within 60 seconds of joining," she wrote in the post from December, "I was verbally and sexually harassed – 3-4 nale avatars with male voices, escape of virtually gang raped my avatar." She details watching her avatar get sexually assaulted to the who took photos and sent her comments like "don't pretend you didn'

comments like don't pretend you didn	
the woman is vice president of Meta company Meta released Horizon Wo Dec. 9 after an invite-only beta test a download for all users, but Meta plans according to CNBC, similar to how it not immediately respond to a request t	werse Research for Kabuni Ventures States and Canada on by creators and is free to ce and advertising, and Instagram. Metá did Y to comment.
Meta envisions a virtual world when	adigital avalars connect brough work, travel or entertainment using
VK headsets Zuckerberg has been bul it. "The next platform and medium will experience, not just looking at it, and the after revealing	erse, believing it could replace the internet as we know mersive and embodied internet where you're in the taverse," said Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg last month
After her initial blog post pathetic cry fo about whether	Nina Jane Patel receiving comments alling it "a state to pick a female avatar shave raised questions
In resp Research that Attractiveness of their avatar.	which found that people based their social behavior on the d more attractive avatars
tended to per	rward. But the link
between violent video games and Vio Psychological Association releasing a as of March 2020.	has been called into question. The American is "insufficient evidence" of a causal relationship
	years, Some longitudinal studies show a signs of aggression in children and other research disputing it.Patel
points out that the metaverse is becom avatar shocked and offended her.	ive, and the bodily harm she experienced in her
Joseph Jones, president of Bos social media say it's unlikely Patel has a st harassment in the metaverse is an em	rong legal case sexual harassment but acknowledges that case would depend on several factors, such as

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, it's unlikely she could sue for defamation, but

harassment in the metaverse is an em the specific comments people made a name. Given that she doesn't have a l she could file a civil restraining order But even that has challenges,

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But even that has challenges, and the second second

It wasn't that long ago when my three adultchildren were little kids. Throughout their childhood, I never had to worry about what was being taught in their schools. I never had to worry that a student of the opposite sex was going to play on my children's sports teams or use their school bathrooms. Most importantly. I was never afraid that teachers counselors, and administrators might deliberately conceal what was their school. Inschool. But oh, how times have changed in the 10 years since my youngest child graduated from high school. Many parents today are worried that critical race theory and gender ideology are being taught without the parents 'knowledge or consent. Neither was included in the curriculum when my kids were in school.

I applaud Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for addressing the concerns many parents have about the changing school curriculum. DeSantis signed the Parental Rights in Education bill at a March 28 ceremony. Dubbed by critics as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, the new law prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade. After third grade, sex education in Florida must be age appropriate. The law empowers parents to sue school districts over violations. DeSantis said the law was needed because of incidents of LGBTQ indoctrination of young children in Florida schools. As an example, he displayed LGBTQ educational materials including a "Genderbread Person" chart that was found in Florida classrooms and used to teach young children about gender identity and sexual orientation.

After DeSantis spoke, Florida mom January Littlejohn talked about how, without her knowledge or consent, a Florida middle school created a transgender, gender nonconforming support plan for her 13-year-old daughter. "Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention that can lead to significant decisions that will impact the child's mental and physical well-being," said Littlejohn, who is a licensed mental health counselor in Florida. "Often social transition is the first step toward medical transition. And schools are grossly unqualified to be taking these steps without parental involvement." In addition to the Parental Rights in Education bill, DeSantis signed curriculum transparency legislation giving parents the right to information on the curriculum and library books in their children's schools. Last year, DeSantis signed the Parents Bill of Rights, which prohibits the government from infringing on the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education and health care of minor children.

Pennsylvania lacks the parental rights and curriculum transparency laws that now exist in Florida. Last December, Gov. Wolf vetoed transparency in education legislation, which would have required Pennsylvania schools to make available online information such as course summaries and textbooks being used. Undeterred by Wolf's veto, state Sen. Ryan Aument, is crafting a new education bill. According to Aument's legislative director, Stephanie Buchanan, the bill would require schools to notify parents before using any sexually explicit materials in the curriculum or before allowing students to check out library books with such material.

The state Department of Education website has information on equity and inclusion that school districts are encouraged to include in their curriculum. While the website states that critical race theory is not taught in Pennsylvania schools, the information on the website uses many of the concepts from this controversial social justice movement. On the website, under equity and inclusion, the Department of Education provides information on LGBTQ inclusive curricula starting in kindergarten. I agree with Gov. DeSantis that it's not a good idea to teach this kind of material to young children.

According to recent polls, voters across party lines disapprove of teaching critical race theory and gender ideology to young children in public schools. For instance, a recent online poll of swing district voters sponsored by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee found that 61% of these voters agreed with the statement, "Democrats are teaching kids as young as five critical race theory, which teaches that America is a racist country and that white people are racist." The Wall Street Journal recently published the results of a new poll by Public Opinion Strategies. According to the poll, 61% of respondents agreed with the Florida Parental Rights in Education law. When poll participants were categorized by political party and demographics, 67% of parents, 60% of suburban voters and 55% of Democratic voters supported the parental rights law.

It's hard to imagine being the parent of young children today and having to deal with the gradual, unrelenting push from the left to implement critical race theory and gender ideology in public schools. Hopefully, Pennsylvania parents will teach woke politicians a lesson at the ballot box come November.

Jennifer