



S.A.P.I.E.N.T. BEING

Society Advancing Personal Intelligence & Enlightenment Now Together

SAPIENT CONSERVATIVE TEXTBOOKS (SCT)

SCT PROGRAM HANDBOOK

By Corey Lee Wilson

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How to Contact the SAPIENT Being

If you have any questions or require additional info starting a SAPIENT Being organization on your campus and/or becoming a member, please contact the SAPIENT Being HQ at (951) 638-5562 or at sapientbeing@att.net. Please visit the SAPIENT Being website for frequently asked questions (FAQs) at the CONTACT page at www.sapientbeing.org.

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1 – The Sapien Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program

University life requires that people with diverse viewpoints and perspectives encounter each other in an environment where they feel free to speak up and challenge each other. Countering campus groupthink is part of what led to the creation of this program, because when nearly everyone in a field in academia or throughout the student body shares the same political orientation, certain ideas become orthodoxy, dissent is discouraged, and errors can go unchallenged, and sapience is stunted.

The Sapien Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program's goals are congruent with the Heterodox Academy's and align with many others to find ways of improving the academy by enhancing viewpoint diversity and the conditions that encourage free inquiry. The ethos for every MADNESS textbook is truth without bias and forms the basis for every topic the SCT addresses.

The primary purpose of the 50 MADNESS series of textbooks is to introduce, expose, and touch upon a growing list of "madness" topics that present themselves in the 21st century. By using sapience as the foundation for addressing the most important issues and problems facing America and the world today, together—left, right, and center—we can achieve common sense solutions that support the public trust, promote good will, and serve the common good.

Sapience, also known as wisdom, is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense and insight. Sapience is associated with attributes such as intelligence, enlightenment, and unbiased judgement.

The Sapien Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program is designed to help return conservative values, viewpoint diversity, and sapience to high school and college students and enlighten them on the many blessings to humankind that are the direct result of American exceptionalism, Western European culture, and Judeo-Christian values.

In order to create deeper intellectual and political diversity, we need an affirmative-action program for the full range of conservative ideas and traditions, because on too many of our campuses they seldom get the sustained, scholarly attention they deserve.



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2 – Why is a SCT Program Needed?

Our present ideological circumstances and point of views should not prevent us from engaging with a variety of conservative, religious, and libertarian modes of thinking, just as they shouldn't prevent us from engaging with modes of thinking organized under the banner of progressivism or critical theory.

Such engagement might actually lead to greater understanding among those who disagree politically, and it might also allow for more robust critical and creative thinking about our histories, our present and the possibilities for the future.

The Heterodox Academy ratings reveal the good, the bad and the ugly about the intellectual diversity on 150 leading campuses and published a rating of the intellectual diversity and free speech friendliness of 150 of America's more prominent universities and colleges.

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) surveyed the written policies of 466 colleges and universities, evaluating their compliance with First Amendment standards and their college rankings are disturbing

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) rated colleges and universities as “red light,” “yellow light,” or “green light” institutions based on how much, if any, protected expression their written policies restrict. Of the 466 schools reviewed by the FIRE in 2019, 133, or 28.5%, received a red light rating. 285 schools received a yellow light rating (61.2%), and 42 received a green light rating (9%).

In today's ideologically charged campus climate, the Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program will test the limits educational institutions place on freedom of speech, viewpoint diversity, and intellectual humility—and sapience as well.

K12 schools, community colleges and 4-year universities—and their principals, superintendents, presidents, boards of trustees, faculties, parents, and alumni—must maximize support for free expression, intellectual pluralism, and most of all viewpoint diversity.

A 2016 Gallup survey found that more than one in four college students felt colleges should be able to restrict students from “expressing political views that are upsetting or offensive to certain groups,” while nearly half were open to restricting press access to public events.

Consider These Disturbing Trends

Given the current undergraduate tendency toward intellectual orthodoxy, one wonders: Would the advances of the feminist movement even have happened, had the campus conformists of a half-century ago had their way?

- A recent study found that 68 percent of college students “largely agree” the campus climate today prevents some of them from speaking their minds for fear of offending someone.
- In a 2016 Gallup survey, one in four college students felt their schools should be able to restrict students from “expressing political views that are upsetting or offensive to certain groups.”
- Shockingly, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE, for short) rated the level of freedom of speech permitted at 466 major universities in America. They found that 28 percent received a “red light” rating, 62 percent a “yellow light” rating, and only 10 percent received a “green light” rating.

Regarding the lack of viewpoint diversity needed to burst the prevailing ideological bubbles on campus, consider these alarming statistics:

- More than 50 percent of students surveyed reported that they do not think their college frequently encourages students to consider a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives.
- UCLA’s Higher Education Institute shows that the faculty has moved considerably leftward since the late 1980s, especially in the Arts and Humanities. In New England alone, liberal professors outnumber conservative ones by an astonishing ratio of 28:1.
- A large student and faculty sampling by the American Association of Colleges and Universities reported only 18 percent of the faculty and staff strongly agreed that it was “safe to hold unpopular positions on campus.”

And the third major concern is a lack of intellectual humility from students, administrators, and faculty. Consider these examples:

- The first is the rise of Intolerance: Since 2000, the FIRE has recorded 379 instances of disinvitations, with nearly a quarter of those occurring between 2016 to 2018. In those two years, 82 percent of these disinvitations have been because of the Left’s doing.
- The second is the lack of Constructive Disagreement: The concept centers around creating a dynamic where key stakeholders in the faculty and student body are compelled to disagree. The word “constructive” alludes to the need to raise issues, debate, and resolve them reasonably. In the academy, this rarely happens—but it does so in the corporate world—successfully.
- And the third concerns the prevalence of Confirmation Bias: The 2008 paper, “Estimating the reproducibility of psychological science” describes the replication failure rate being as high as one-half to two-thirds of 100 sampled experiments published in 2008 in three high-ranking psychology journals.

The New Campus Illiberalism Is More Than Intolerance

The 21st century term "illiberalism" is used to describe an attitude that is close-minded, intolerant, and bigoted.

The pursuit of knowledge and the maintenance of a free and democratic society require the cultivation and practice of the virtues of intellectual humility, openness of mind, and, above all, love of truth. These virtues will manifest themselves and be strengthened by one's willingness to listen attentively and respectfully to intelligent people who challenge one's beliefs and who represent causes one disagrees with and points of view one does not share.

That's why all of us should seek respectfully to engage with people who challenge our views. And we should oppose efforts to silence those with whom we disagree—especially on college and university campuses. As John Stuart Mill taught, a recognition of the possibility that we may be in error is a good reason to listen to and honestly consider—and not merely to tolerate grudgingly—points of view that we do not share, and even perspectives that we find shocking or scandalous.

None of us is infallible. Whether you are a person of the left, the right, or the center, there are reasonable people of goodwill who do not share your fundamental convictions. This does not mean that all opinions are equally valid or that all speakers are equally worth listening to. It certainly does not mean that there is no truth to be discovered. Nor does it mean that you are necessarily wrong. But they are not necessarily wrong either.

"The person you are now only exists because the person you were was willing to grow into something new." - John Templeton.

All of us should be willing—even eager—to engage with anyone who is prepared to do business in the currency of truth-seeking discourse by offering reasons, marshaling evidence, and making arguments. The more important the subject under discussion, the more willing we should be to listen and engage—especially if the person with whom we are in conversation will challenge our deeply held—even our most cherished and identity-forming—beliefs.

Intellectual humility is the key to questioning our beliefs, lowering our defense mechanisms, and finding the truth. Consider watching the short "The Joy of Being Wrong" video by the John Templeton Foundation at: <https://youtu.be/mRXNUx4cua0> where this principle is nicely summarized.

Is There "Viewpoint" Diversity On Your Campus?

K12 schools, colleges, and universities—and their principals, superintendents, presidents, boards of trustees, faculties, parents, and alumni—must maximize support for free expression, intellectual pluralism, and most of all viewpoint diversity.

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Given the current undergraduate tendency toward intellectual orthodoxy, one wonders: Would the advances of the feminist movement even have happened, had the campus conformists of a half-century ago had their way?

Respect for freedom of speech and diversity of thought are essential for achieving civil and thoughtful discourse, but also for enabling societal progress itself. Progress relies on early agitators, who are willing to speak out and press forward, no matter the backlash they engender. Many ideas once considered heretical have become accepted wisdom, thanks to early dissenters challenging the tide.

Real change relied on the courage of young women during the 1960s and 1970s, who stood up for equal opportunity in higher education and the workforce. They faced vocal opposition from many college alumni, professors, and fellow students. Nevertheless, these women persisted, no matter how “problematic” their efforts may have been considered. Their determined activism paved the way for the generations to come.

Today’s campus conformists are in danger of squandering this legacy. How can students learn, think, and grow without exposure to unexpected, challenging ideas? How can any campus fulfill its mission of preparing tough-minded and capable students if it instills in them a desire to squelch opposing views rather than a willingness to consider and confront them?

Perhaps some unwise ideas will be presented with which students will vociferously disagree, but this debate will strengthen campus discourse and help students become independent thinkers. In the end, students—and society—can only benefit from embracing intellectual humility and the free marketplace of ideas.



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3 – Fighting the Idiocracy With Sapience

In 2020 we saw mandatory lockdowns, nationwide riots and even the integrity of our elections came into question. During this chaos, a majority of young people also cast their ballot for the Left's radical socialist/Marxist ideas.

That means many millennials now support policies like defunding the police, open borders, and universal healthcare. This comes as no surprise, as the Left works round-the-clock to reach young people with its destructive ideas through culture, the media and education.

But, imagine if ONLY young people voted in the recent election? Pollsters have projected those results. According to NPR, if 18-29 year-olds were the only ones voting, it wouldn't have been close. The Left would have won in a landslide.

At the SAPIENT Being, this disaster doesn't have to be America's future. As conservatives, libertarians, independents, and most importantly sapient beings—this is our sobering wake-up call.

The future is not yet written. It's up to us—you and me—to save America one mind at a time.

Many Americans hope that as young people grow up, they will inevitably realize what you and I already know...leftism hurts those it claims to help. But, sadly, this is no longer happening.

The Left-Wing Propaganda Machine Continues Well Past Graduation

Social media censorship cancel culture and outright threats toward conservatives, libertarians, independents, and sapient beings make it hard for young people to break free of the woke mob and fake news and consider alternate points of view, the truth, and sapient ideals.

Now, leftist indoctrination is spreading well beyond the coasts. If we don't act now, it's only a matter of time before its oppressive and dysfunctional policies overtake all of America. Our treasured and God-given liberties, freedoms and way of life are at risk of being lost forever.

The SAPIENT Being, along with other sapient organizations who understand the many blessings to humankind that are the direct result of American exceptionalism, Western European culture, and Judeo-Christian values—will not stand idly for this.

As Dennis Prager so eloquently states, “I refuse to be forever labeled as ‘the generation that lost America’ -- and I know you agree!”

But to avoid that catastrophe, we must not merely double our efforts, but triple them and commit to educating our youth for the long haul. The SAPIENT Being’s MADNESS Textbook Program can help make a difference at the K12 and collegiate level.

Humility, openness, engagement, a strong and maturing self that is always a work in progress; these are the necessary ingredients for a free society, and for shared progress, according to John Stuart Mill. For far too long, sapient beings have failed to pass on our values to the next generation. Clearly, we need to better market our successful, freedom-boosting values and ideas.

This section’s content is courtesy of Dennis Prager at Prager U and Corey Lee Wilson at the SAPIENT Being.



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4 – Leftists Are Writing New Social Studies Lessons

It's hard to know what's worse—brainwashing kids or lying about it.

Parents worried their kids are being indoctrinated with critical race theory can't get straight answers. Local school boards and principals lie to them, claiming children are merely being taught to be "critical thinkers."

On Saturday June 12, 2021, the truth came out. Teachers unions and activists held rallies in 22 cities to support critical race theory. What they said was eye-popping. They unabashedly declared that their goal is indoctrinating students in far-left causes.

The Zinn Education Project, which organized Saturday's events, produces race-centric material for junior high and high schools across the country. Lesson plans are offered free for teachers to download. Parents wondering where the critical race theory their children are getting comes from can go to the website. They'll be shocked.

Marxist Historian Howard Zinn's Views on Teaching Social Studies

Zinn was founded by the late Howard Zinn, a Marxist historian who said that teaching social studies wasn't about dates and events. It was to make students want to change the world, overthrowing the status quo.

A Zinn lesson called "Students Design a Reparations Bill" explains that students will be asked to improve on the "flimsy" reparations bills currently in Congress. Critical thinking isn't encouraged. This isn't a debate about whether there should be reparations. This is one-sided indoctrination. "As racial justice activists, student are all on the 'same side,' in this role play," says the Zinn website.

Other extreme left groups supplying social studies materials for schools include the Southern Poverty Law Center and Black Lives Matter at School. SPLC tells educators to stand their ground against parents "and vigorously resist efforts to maintain the status quo." No wonder parents are getting the run around.

It's Not Just White Families Protesting

Keisha King, a black mother from Duval County, Florida, warned the Florida Board of Education that telling a child he's the victim of oppression is "the essence of holding a child back."

Michael Rivera, a Virginian, explains that he "married a wonderful woman who happens to be white. My son is white." He objects that "according to critical race theory, my son should have white guilt and white privilege."

More than 500 people have signed a petition demanding a curriculum that allows students to learn "without the titles of racist and victim" in Guilford, Connecticut, a small town outside of New Haven. Yet the Guilford school superintendent insists schools aren't teaching critical race theory. Does he think parents are lying about the homework in their kids' backpacks?

In Greenwich, Connecticut, parents went to the microphone at a May 20 school board meeting, parents to quote materials their children had brought home, including a "white bias" survey for seventh graders. The school board members and school superintendent sat silently. Last week, the superintendent sent out an email to parents explaining that Greenwich wants students to be "critical thinkers" but deftly denying that critical race theory is part of the curriculum.

That may be technically true. Critical race theory originated in law schools. But what's being taught in elementary and secondary schools across the country is a simplified version.

Fight Back by Replacing Your Local School Board Officials

Since school administrators will lie and obfuscate to push ahead with critical race theory, parents have only one choice. They have to organize and run candidates to replace the local school boards. School board elections are usually quiet because unions and other insiders like it that way. Now's the time for parents to grab control.

Twenty states with Republican legislative majorities are trying to ban critical race theory. They're not calling for whitewashing American history, as some activists claim, but they require diversity of viewpoints and prohibit lessons that would shame students for their "privilege."

Even so, state bans are not ideal. They may run afoul of the First Amendment. And it's hard to know what's going on in each school. That's what local school boards are for.

Even in blue states, Republican candidates who challenge local school boards will make inroads and gain converts to the GOP. This is a winning issue.

Parents—whether independents, Democrats, Republicans or black, white, Hispanic, and Asian—want their children to be educated—not indoctrinated.

This section's content courtesy of the *Epoch Times* "Opinion: The Leftists Writing Your Child's Social Studies Lessons" by Betsy McCaughey, former lieutenant governor of New York.



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5 – Critical Race Theory, the New Intolerance, and Its Grip on America

This critical section, from the first page of section 5 of the Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program Handbook, covering the origins, evolution, and influence of Critical Race Theory (CRT) is from one of the world's most highly ranked think tanks, the Heritage Foundation, and their highly acclaimed December 7, 2020 report *Critical Race Theory, the New Intolerance, and Its Grip on America* by authors Jonathan Butcher and Mike Gonzalez.

This 42 page doc at <https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/BG3567.pdf> is a sapient being's must read and will explain and tie together some of the points you brought up today in the meeting. I copied the first section from this report in blue font and also highlighted a key paragraph below as a quick "definitions" area so you can see the bigger picture. The report is 54 pages long, but I reduced it in the handbook by removing the sources throughout the report and a few sections for brevity.

The author's research and analyses sapiently demonstrate how CRT makes race the prism through which its proponents analyze all aspects of American life—and do so with a degree of persistence that has helped CRT impact all of American life.

Furthermore, it provides a historical understanding and connection of the present foundations of the 21st century Progressivism (i.e., "Regressivism") movement which is a form of recycled Marxism lite (with a whole new modern set of social constructs) imprinted on a younger American audience consisting of Generations X Y Z care of academia, mainstream media, big tech, socialists, leftists, liberals, the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, corporate America, and even RINO's and Never Trumpers of the GOP.

It's madness! / Corey

Critical Race Theory, the New Intolerance, and Its Grip on America

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Most readers and scholars after reviewing this section will be surprised how CRT underpins identity politics, an ongoing effort to reimagine the United States as a nation riven by groups, each with specific claims on victimization. In entertainment, as well as the education and workforce sectors of society, CRT is well-established, driving decision-making according to skin color—not individual value and talent.

As Critical Theory ideas become more familiar to the viewing public in everyday life, CRT's intolerance becomes "normalized," along with the idea of systemic racism for Americans, weakening public and private bonds that create trust and allow for civic engagement.

As its name should make abundantly clear, **Critical Race Theory (CRT)** is the child of **Critical Theory (CT)**, or, to be more precise, its grandchild. Critical Theory is the immediate forebearer of **Critical Legal Theory (CLT)**, and CLT begat CRT and there are strong thematic components linking CT, CLT, and CRT. Among these are:

- The Marxist analysis of society made up of categories of oppressors and oppressed;
- An unhealthy dollop of Nietzschean relativism, which means that language does not accord to an objective reality, but is the mere instrument of power dynamics;
- The idea that the oppressed impede revolution when they adhere to the cultural beliefs of their oppressors—and must be put through re-education sessions;
- The concomitant need to dismantle all societal norms through relentless criticism; and
- The replacement of all systems of power and even the descriptions of those systems with a worldview that describes only oppressors and the oppressed.

Far from being merely esoteric academic exercises, these philosophies have real-life consequences as this report will explore in greater detail.

This section then provides sapient policy recommendations that are aimed at restoring the concepts of judging people not by the color of their skin (as is the foundation of CRT) but by their conduct (as in content of character empowered MLK) and the need to protect liberty so that everyone, regardless of ethnicity or background, has the opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

Critical Theory

The origins of Critical Theory can be traced to the 1937 manifesto of the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt, colloquially known as the Frankfurt School. One of the first examples of what has come to be called the Western Marxist schools of thought, the Institute modeled itself on the Moscow-based Marx-Engels Institute.

Critical Theory was, from the start, an unremitting attack on Western institutions and norms in order to tear them down. This attack was aimed only at the West. Even though the manifesto, titled Traditional and Critical Theory, was written at the height of Joseph Stalin's purges, show trials, and famines, the school "maintained an almost complete official silence about events in the USSR."

The manifesto, written by the school's second director, Max Horkheimer, claimed that traditional theory fetishized knowledge, seeing truth as empirical and universal. Critical theory, on the other hand, "held that man could not be objective and that there are no universal truths."

This relativism was inherited from Friedrich Nietzsche and filtered through the dialectics of Georg Friedrich Hegel and his best-known disciple, Karl Marx. The Frankfurt School philosophers believed that "a true epistemology must end the fetish of knowledge as such, which as Nietzsche demonstrated, leads to abstract systematizing."

As for their Marxism, three years earlier, Horkheimer had let his true feelings for the Soviet state be known in a collection of short essays known as *Dammerung* (in German, both "dawn" and "twilight"). "He who has eyes for the meaningless injustice of the imperialist world, which in no way is to be explained by technical impotence, will regard the events in Russia as the progressive, painful attempt to overcome this injustice."

Critical Theory and Its Early Applications

In the context of the era, Critical Theory's demolition of Western traditions and norms was nothing less than a tool to implement the counter-hegemony called for in the Theory of Cultural Hegemony enunciated in the first decades of the 20th Century by Antonio Gramsci. Marx and Friedrich Engels had promised constant revolution by the workers of the world, but by the early 1930s, few had succeeded.

The founder of the Italian Communist Party, Gramsci had come to believe that the workers were not revolting and overthrowing the bourgeoisie because they had bought into the belief system of the ruling class—family, nation-state, the capitalist system, and God. What was needed was struggle sessions in which the revolutionary vanguard would teach the workers how to think. But first the norms needed to be torn down.

That is where Critical Theory—and, as we will see, all its offshoots—come in.

Horkheimer and the other Frankfurt scholars left Germany to escape the Third Reich, fleeing first to Geneva, then to New York, where Columbia University allowed them to set up camp in 1935 at Teachers' College. In the United States they developed the same disdain for the American worker that Gramsci had felt for his Italian counterpart. "They insist unwaveringly on the ideology by which they are enslaved," Horkheimer wrote with another Frankfurt School scholar, Theodor Adorno, about the American worker.

After the defeat of the Nazi regime, Horkheimer, Adorno, and the others were able to return to Germany. But they left behind Horkheimer's assistant, Herbert Marcuse, who became one of the leading spokesmen of the New Left.

A witness to the upheavals caused by the riots and violence associated with the Civil Rights era and the anti-Vietnam War Movement, Marcuse discovered in them a new agent of change: minorities, of which more categories would need to be created. "Underneath the conservative popular base is the substratum of the outcasts and outsiders, the exploited and persecuted of other races and other colors," Marcuse wrote. They would still need to be led ideologically—"their opposition is revolutionary even if their consciousness is not"—but the potential to stoke grievances among them was there in a way that did not exist with workers as a category.

Critical Legal Theory

It is at this point that Critical Legal Theory takes over. Its scholars self-consciously acknowledge their debt to Critical Theory and other Marxist movements that came before the Frankfurt School. “Although CLS has been largely contained within the United States, it was influenced to a great extent by European philosophers, such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, Max Horkheimer, Antonio Gramsci, and Michel Foucault,” reads the entry for CLT in the Cornell Law School’s Legal Information Institute.

The Cornell entry for Critical Legal Studies explains:

Critical legal studies (CLS) is a theory which states that the law is necessarily intertwined with social issues, particularly stating that the law has inherent social biases. Proponents of CLS believe that the law supports the interests of those who create the law. As such, CLS states that the law supports a power dynamic which favors the historically privileged and disadvantages the historically underprivileged. CLS finds that the wealthy and the powerful use the law as an instrument for oppression in order to maintain their place in hierarchy.

Then comes the kicker: “Many in the CLS movement want to overturn the hierarchical structures of modern society[,] and they focus on the law as a tool in achieving this goal.”

Just as with Critical Theory, Critical Legal Theory is, then, an instrument to overturn society for those who follow its tenets, this time from a legal perspective. The law, they argue, is simply the cultural hegemony codified in statutes and defended by a jurisprudence that aims to support the powerful against the claims of the marginalized. CLT proponents trace their founding to the first Conference on Critical Legal Studies, held at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1977. Among its main theorists figure Duncan Kennedy, Roberto Mangabeira Unger, and Robert W. Gordon.

In a 2002 essay, Kennedy acknowledges the debt Critical Legal Theory owes to both Marxism and post-modernism (championed by a mostly Parisian set of intellectuals who preached that texts could be “deconstructed” by the reader, a complicated philosophical concept that involves reinterpreting words to replace ideas based on objective physical existence), two separate critiques of bourgeois reality that nevertheless can rub uneasily against each other. “Critical legal studies,” he writes, “operates [sic] at the uneasy juncture of two distinct, sometimes complementary and sometimes conflicting enterprises, which we will call the left and the modernist/postmodernist projects.”

“Leftism aims to transform existing social structures on the basis of a critique of their injustice, and, specifically, at the injustices of racist, capitalist patriarchy. The goal is to replace the system, piece by piece or in medium- or large-sized blocs, with a better system,” writes Kennedy.

Post-Modernism Borrows Heavily From the Nietzschean Attack on Objectivity

Post-modernism is a much more complex phenomenon, but it aims at the same destruction of society as the Marxist project, starting with the use of reason itself. We can gain a sense of such complexity in Kennedy’s own abstruse writing on Modernism/Postmodernism (or MPM). He explains:

[MPM] is a critique of the characteristic forms of rightness of this same culture and aims at liberation from inner and outer experiences of constraint by reason, in the name, not of justice and a new system, but of the dialectic of system and anti-system, mediated by transgressive artifacts that paradoxically reaffirm the “higher” forms of the values they seem to traduce.

Just as with Critical Theory, post-modernism borrows heavily from the Nietzschean attack on objectivity. Writes Kennedy:

For the [MPM] project, the demand for agreement and commitment on the basis of representation with the pretension to objectivity is an enemy. The specific enemies have been the central ethical/theoretical concepts of bourgeois culture, including God, the autonomous individual choosing self, conventional morality, the family, manhood and womanhood, the nation state, humanity.

CLT scholars also display an awareness of the rising identity groups that Marcuse identified as the new revolutionary base. Kennedy quotes approvingly his fellow university professor Cornell West as asserting the existence of an inchoate, scattered yet gathering progressive movement that is emerging across the American landscape. This gathering now lacks both the vital moral vocabulary and the focused leadership that can constitute and sustain it. Yet it will be rooted ultimately in current activities by people of color, by labor and ecological groups, by women, by homosexuals.

Kennedy adds that “in the United States, by the end of the 1970s, with the rise of identity politics, left discourse merged with liberal discourse, and the two ideas of the rights of the oppressed and the constitutional validity of their legal claims superseded all earlier versions of rightness.”

Harvard’s Berkman Klein Center’s entry on Critical Legal Theory neatly teases out the link between the legal analysis of power relations with the emerging identity-based politics. It writes that CLT scholars:

focused from the start on the ways that law contributed to illegitimate social hierarchies, producing domination of women by men, nonwhites by whites, and the poor by the wealthy. They claim that apparently neutral language and institutions, operated through law, mask relationships of power and control. The emphasis on individualism within the law similarly hides patterns of power relationships while making it more difficult to summon up a sense of community and human interconnection.”

Critical Race Theory

From there it is a short step to Critical Race Theory. Unsurprisingly, given its name, CRT makes everything about race the prism through which its proponents analyze all aspects of American life—and do so with a degree of persistence that has helped CRT impact all aspects of American life.

Derrick Bell, referenced above, the widely-acknowledged “godfather” of CRT, explains in the essay cited earlier that the work of CRT authors “is often disruptive because its commitment to anti-racism goes well beyond civil rights, integration, affirmative action, and other liberal measures.”

Bell quotes Angela P. Harris as explaining that CRT inherits from its Critical Legal Theory ancestor the commitment to dismantle all aspects of society through unrelenting criticism—and at the same time eschews the woolly deconstructionist excesses of the postmodernists and adopts the practicality of the Civil Rights movement. Bell points to theorist and professor Charles Lawrence and says he “speaks for many critical race theory adherents when he disagrees with the notion that laws are or can be written from a neutral perspective.”

Because the law “systematically privileges subjects who are white,” CRT calls for a “transformative resistance strategy.”

CRT's Theoretical Applications

Because CRT is so intent on real-life transformation, some aspects of post-modernism and its deconstructionism had to be jettisoned, or at least sidelined. Kimberle Crenshaw, the CRT scholar who first came up with the CRT term “intersectionality,” put the need to abandon the Parisian post-modernism best when she wrote:

While the descriptive project of postmodernism of questioning the ways in which meaning is socially constructed is generally sound, this critique sometimes misreads the meaning of social construction and distorts its political relevance.... But to say that a category such as race or gender is socially constructed is not to say that that category has no significance in our world. On the contrary, a large and continuing project for subordinated people—and indeed, one of the projects for which postmodern theories have been very helpful in thinking about—is the way power has clustered around certain categories and is exercised against others.

In the end, the identity politics that CRT exists to implement was more important than salon revelries. Adherents can apply intersectionality, for example: Someone can claim to be oppressed in more than one way by citing association with more than one social group, or “axis.”

CRT writers Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge explain that with intersectionality, “people’s lives and the organization of power in a given society are better understood as being shaped not by a single axis of social division, be it race or gender or class, but by many axes that work together and influence each other.”

In this way, write Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay, CRT results in people looking for “power imbalances, bigotry, and biases that it assumes must be present,” which reduces everything to prejudice, “as understood under the power dynamics asserted by Theory.”²⁹

Of the three critical schools of thought analyzed here, CRT is the least intellectually ethereal and the most explicitly political. Its use of story-telling—easy to understand fictional vignettes that seek to portray in every-day life terms the “systemic racism” that CRT scholars insist exists in America—is but one of the ways that CRT scholars seek to effect change.

CRT’s ceaseless assault on all American institutions and norms is pure Critical Theory, however. This assault includes the liberal order—in the classical sense, referring to Enlightenment ideas and political arrangements in which law protects individuals pursuing their own interests—something CRT scholars openly admit.

CRT and Classical Liberal Ideas

CRT’s proponents, writes Bell, “are highly suspicious of the liberal agenda, distrust its method, and want to retain what they see as a valuable strain of egalitarianism which may exist despite, and not because of, liberalism.”

This is an important departure from the original goals of the Civil Rights movement, which sought to redeem America’s promise by calling for color-blind equality. “Unlike traditional civil rights discourse, which stresses incrementalism and step-by-step progress, critical race theory questions the very foundations of the liberal order, including equality theory, legal reasoning, Enlightenment rationalism, and neutral principles of constitutional law,” acknowledges Delgado.

The radical egalitarianism obviously clashes with strong protections of property rights and any notion of equal protection under the law. These are not the only liberal rights to be thrown overboard. Freedom of speech is also in CRT's sights. "Being committed to 'free speech' may seem like a neutral principle, but it is not. Thus, proclaiming that 'I am committed equally to allowing free speech for the KKK and 2LiveCrew' is a non-neutral value judgment, one that asserts that the freedom to say hateful things is more important than the freedom to be free from the victimization, stigma, and humiliation that free speech entails."

Thus We Arrive at Today's Cancel Culture

Even the idea of rights itself—the very concept upon which this country was founded—is a target of CRT. "Crits are suspicious of another liberal mainstay, namely, rights," observes Delgado, using the informal abbreviation CRT writers sometimes employ to describe themselves. The "more radical CRT scholars with roots in racial realism and an economic view of history believe that moral and legal rights are apt to do the right holder much less good than we like to think.... Think how that system applauds affording everyone equality of opportunity but resists programs that assure equality of results." Rights are "alienating. They separate people from each other—'stay away, I've got my rights'—rather than encouraging to form close, respectful communities."

The liberal principle that we universally derive these rights from a common humanity and human faculties we all share equally comes under the gun. Classical liberalism is "overly caught up in the search for universals," writes Delgado. What CRT proponents want is "individualized treatment—'context'—that pays attention to minorities' lives."

"The concepts of rights is indeterminate, vague and disutile," in Bell's words.

Legal and administrative neutrality, too, is an enemy because it gets in the way of uplifting such minority voices. Also—and this is a recurring theme with all critical schools, starting with Horkheimer, if not Nietzsche—neutrality is impossible to attain. On this point, Bell cites Lawrence again:

Charles Lawrence [a law professor] speaks for many critical race theory adherents when he disagrees with the notion that laws are or can be written from a neutral perspective. Lawrence asserts that such a neutral perspective does not, and cannot, exist—that we all speak from a particular point of view, from what he calls a 'positioned perspective.' The problem is that not all positioned perspectives are equally valued, equally heard, or equally included. From the perspective of critical race theory, some positions have historically been oppressed, distorted, ignored, silenced, destroyed, appropriated, commodified, and marginalized—and all of this, not accidentally.

CRT is purposely political and dispenses with the idea of rights because it blames all inequalities of outcome on what its adherents say is pervasive racism in the United States. "White supremacy," a term that comes up repeatedly in CRT discourse and continues to be heavily used today by leaders of the Black Lives Matter organizations, must be smashed. White supremacy does not mean an actual belief in the superiority of white people, however. It can mean anything from classical philosophers to Enlightenment thinkers to the Industrial Revolution.

One of the most famous practitioners of CRT today, Robin DiAngelo, writes in her book, *White Fragility*:

White supremacy is a descriptive and useful term to capture the all-encompassing centrality and assumed superiority of people defined and perceived as white and the practices based on this assumption. White supremacy in this context does not refer to individual white people and their

individual intentions or actions but to an overarching political, economic, and social system of domination. Again, racism is a structure, not an event. While hate groups that openly proclaim white superiority do exist and this term refers to them also, the popular consciousness solely associates white supremacy with these radical groups. This reductive definition obscures the reality of the larger system at work and prevents us from addressing this system.

“I hope to have made clear that white supremacy is something much more pervasive and subtle than the actions of explicit white nationalists. White supremacy describes the culture we live in,” DiAngelo writes.

Its use is a very successful example of the Left’s use of strategic ambiguity in the pursuit of a rather large and ambitious goal. The target is a free-market system that rewards hard work, ability, and other virtuous traits. Other CRT terms that have specific and unique meanings when used by its practitioners are “equity,” “diversity,” “inclusion,” and “people of color.”

CRT speakers have also developed peculiar turns of phrase that are specific to the group; supporters are said to be “in allyship” or “in relationship.” The U.S. is said to be a “carceral state.”

How Does Critical Race Theory Affect You?

Because of their strong political commitment to transforming the United States, CRT writers make clear that they do not intend for what happens on college campuses to stay on campus. “It is our hope that scholarly resistance will lay the groundwork for wide-scale resistance. We believe that standards and institutions created by and fortifying white power ought to be resisted,” writes Bell.

On that score, we must pronounce CRT to have been a resounding success. CRT has broken out of the classroom and become the philosophy of wide-scale resistance. It is useful to identify a few of the ways with which it impacts the daily lives of Americans.

Identity Politics

CRT has become the academic body of work that underpins identity politics, an ongoing effort to reimagine the United States as a nation not of individuals and local communities united under common purposes, but as one riven by groups based on sex, race, national origin, or gender—each with specific claims on victimization. These identity categories correspond to Marcuse’s new revolutionary base (“the substratum of the outcasts and outsiders, the exploited and persecuted of other races and other colors”).

The identities are often artificial ones manufactured by government itself, examples being the Hispanic and Asian-American pan-ethnicities contrived in 1977 by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), or the 31 genders approved by the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Under identity politics, America is no longer a country where the individual is the central agent in society, who, because of his very existence possesses individual rights. Instead, membership in the official categories becomes the identity that matters when it comes to rights (mostly positive rights, not natural ones), responsibilities, and everything else. Identity politics has become the new paradigm under which many Americans now operate. Victimhood is what commands attention, respect, and entitlements, seen as compensatory justice.

CRT emerged contemporaneously with the proliferation of these identity categories in America and became the philosophical tool to implement identity politics and the attempt to transform the United States. *Race, Racism and American Law* by Derrick Bell includes toward the end a chapter for “Racism and Other Nonwhites,” among whom he names for the United States the Chinese, the Japanese, and the Mexicans.

It was published in 1972, two years before the Census Bureau bureaucrats, under pressure from leftist activists, opened the first national racial and ethnic advisory committee.

Three Years Later, These Activists Convinced the OMB to Create the Pan-Ethnic Categories

The simultaneity was hardly coincidental: The activists who forced the bureaucracy to confect the identities also drank deeply from the well of European philosophies brought over after World War II. “The language of ‘dominant’ and ‘subservient,’ or ‘subordinate,’ groups, integral to Critical Theory and the Frankfurt School” pervaded the work of Julian Samora, the first founder of a Hispanic studies department at a major university, the first leader of La Raza [“The Race”] and a member of the Census Bureau’s first national advisory committee on race. Samora’s 1953 dissertation, titled “Minority Leadership in a Bi-Cultural Community,” quotes the German-born American social psychologist Kurt Lewin, who was associated with the Frankfurt School.

CRT reshaped the identitarians’ thinking in new ways still and gave them newer terms to express these thoughts. Soon CRT was spawning Critical Latin Theory and other spinoffs that were identical in their approach—save for the “marginalized” subjects to be emphasized. Identity politics is difficult to challenge because it presents itself as a just demand for formerly marginalized people to claim attention and reward, but it seeks to collectivize American society; it is divisive, flouts constitutional equal protection, and represents a direct threat to republican self-rule. In all this it has found a handmaiden in CRT.

The Black Lives Matter Insurgency

The year 2020, with its protests and riots—as well as the overwhelming acceptance by the media, professional sports, corporations, the academy, and virtually all power centers, that America is irredeemably racist and must overhaul its entire system—has demonstrated that CRT’s teachings have moved beyond the ivory towers and ivy walls.

How much of CRT’s success has contributed to America’s current obsession with race is a question that can be answered through data analysis. A separate question is how much CRT scholars, trainers, and consultants have benefitted as a result of 2020’s violence. The answer to the latter is, conclusively, “a lot.”

Though some may think that the new scrutiny of racial explanations for all aspects of American life may have been sparked by the death under police custody of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, an analysis for the publication the Tablet by Zach Goldberg, a doctoral candidate at Georgia State University, in August 2020 discovered the inverse is true. He writes:

Countless articles have been published in recent weeks, often under the guise of straight news reporting, in which journalists take for granted the legitimacy of novel theories about race and identity. Such articles illustrate a prevailing new political morality on questions of race and justice that has taken power at the *[New York] Times* and *[Washington] Post*—a worldview sometimes abbreviated as

‘wokeness’ that combines the sensibilities of highly educated and hyper liberal white professionals with elements of Black nationalism and academic critical race theory.

But the media’s embrace of ‘wokeness’ did not begin in response to the death of George Floyd. This racial ideology first began to take hold at leading liberal media institutions years before the arrival of Donald Trump and, in fact, heavily influenced the journalistic response to the protest movements of recent years and their critique of American society.

What Goldberg discovered through regression analyses of articles is that a “rapid proliferation of articles employing the tropes of critical race theory to ascribe racial guilt in the American system represents a reckoning with white supremacy and inequality.”

CRT Has Seeped Into American Media and Into Americans’ Collective Consciousness

The jargon of CRT had seeped into American media, and thus into Americans’ collective consciousness, years before the Trump presidency, long before Floyd’s death. Goldberg explains:

Starting well before Donald Trump’s rise to power, while President Obama was still in office, terms like ‘microaggression’ and ‘white privilege’ were picked up by liberal journalists. These terms went from being obscure fragments of academic jargon to commonplace journalistic language in only a few years.... During this same period, while exotic new phrases were entering the discourse, universally recognizable words like ‘racism’ were being radically redefined. Along with the new language came ideas and beliefs animating a new moral-political framework to apply to public life and American society.

All the beliefs that are espoused today by the three founders of the Black Lives Matter organizations (Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi)—that America is institutionally/structurally/systemically racist, that its legal system protects the powerful and amounts to racism codified in statutes, that neutrality and objectivity are impossible to obtain, that “objectivity and individuality are privileges,” that the gauge by which to judge America is equality of outcome, that speech and other rights must be suppressed in order to protect the marginalized—come straight from the CRT canon.

Writing about the impact that Michael Brown’s death in August 2014 had on the nation, the academic James A. Lindsay observed:

Brown’s death mainstreamed Black Lives Matter and, in many respects, many of the core claims and assumptions of critical race theory throughout 2015 and 2016.... Its fundamental claim was that America was systemically racist and that this could be seen most clearly in the American police, criminal justice, and penal systems....

‘Lived Experience’ and ‘Lived Realities’ Are More Important Arbiters of ‘Truth’ Than Truth Itself

That none of this was true was irrelevant as Black Lives Matter mainstreamed the idea that ‘lived experience’ and ‘lived realities’ are more important arbiters of ‘truth’ than truth itself. These beliefs are central to the core assumption of critical race theory that ‘counter stories’ and narratives are more important than facts and truth where systemic racism (and other systemic oppression) is concerned. (This—storytelling, counter story, and narrative related in service to ‘politically Black’ identity political

goals should be forwarded over truth—is usually listed in the top five cornerstone assumptions of critical race theory.)

A September 2020 report from the U.S. Crisis Monitor, which receives support from Princeton University, revealed that BLM activists were involved in 95 percent of the riots between June 2020 and September 2020 for which the identity of the perpetrator was known.

When the Claremont Review’s Charles Kesler called the disturbances “the 1619 riots” (after the CRT-influenced New York Times project that places slavery at the center of everything in America), the architect of the project, Nikole Hannah-Jones tweeted, “It would be an honor. Thank You.”



Credit: Andrew-Caballero Reynolds/AFP via Getty

Curriculum and Action Civics in K–12 Schools

The dissemination of curricular content and instruction based on CRT in K–12 schools is second only in scope to the presence of CRT in post-secondary instruction, where CRT originated. The spread within college- and university-level syllabi and journal articles took place over the course of many decades throughout the 20th century, while the effects on K–12 schools in such areas as social studies, history, and civics have, by comparison, become visible more recently.

The material distracts educators and students away from rigorous learning content, while also teaching ideas that undermine the value of individual liberty and America’s founding ideals and further embedding the concept of systemic racism in the public conscious. These distractions come at a time when state and school officials do not require enough civics-related instruction in school, and there are wide learning gaps in core subjects like reading and math between children from different ethnicities—all subjects that need more, not less, attention.

Academic literature produced in the past 20 years by educational theorists on K–12 curriculum argue that narrative stories and stories from personal experiences—hallmarks of CRT—should replace instruction about facts.

In a widely cited 1998 article from *Qualitative Studies in Education*, Gloria Ladson-Billings writes, “The use of voice or ‘naming your reality’ is a way that CRT links form and substance in scholarship.” She further writes, “Much of reality is socially constructed.” Aligned with the foundational ideals of CRT, Ladson-Billings says, “Critical race theory sees the official school curriculum as a culturally specific artifact designed to maintain a White supremacist master script.”

Notably, she closes the piece by saying, “I doubt if it [CRT] will go very far into the mainstream. Rather, CRT in education is likely to become the ‘darling’ of the radical left, continue to generate scholarly papers and debate, and never penetrate the classrooms and daily experiences of students of color.”

She was wrong.

Districts Around the Country Have Integrated CRT Into School Curricula

Both of the nation’s largest teacher unions support the Black Lives Matter organization, with the National Education Association specifically calling for the use of Black Lives Matter curricular materials in K–12 schools.

This curriculum is “committed” to ideas such as a “queer-affirming network,” which have nothing to do with rigorous instructional content, and promotes racially charged essays such as “Open Secrets in First-Grade Math: Teaching about White Supremacy on American Currency.”

As of 2018, officials in at least 20 large school districts, including Los Angeles and Washington, DC, were promoting Black Lives Matter curricular content and the organization’s “Week of Action.”

According to an Education Week survey in June 2020, 81 percent of teachers, principals, and district leaders “support the Black Lives Matter movement.” However, surveys are not clear on whether the prevailing sentiment among educators is support of authentic equality among individuals or of the divisive ideas espoused within the curriculum.

State and school officials are integrating CRT material into instructional content with California leading the way. California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law on August 17, 2020 a new 3-unit Ethnic Studies requirement for the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system. This law, AB 1460 means students in the CSU system will have to take an ethnic studies course before graduation.

The new social studies curriculum acknowledged CRT priorities such as power and white privilege, including statements such as, “Ethnic studies courses address race within the context of how white dominated culture impacts racism” and educators can “create and utilize lessons rooted in the four foundational disciplines alongside the sample key themes of (1) Identity, (2) History and Movement, (3) Systems of Power, and (4) Social Movements and Equity.”

The curriculum has an entire section devoted to intersectionality, the CRT concept explained earlier that allows someone to claim victimhood based on his or her identification with more than one group (such as being from a minority ethnicity, a lower economic class, and identifying with a specific gender), accelerating a search for “power imbalances” in society.

In a review of the draft materials, Williamson Evers, former U.S. Education Department official and member of the California State Academic Standards Commission, wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*, “The revised model curriculum in California portrays capitalism as oppressive and gives considerable weight to America’s socialist critics.”

He further says, “The proponents of critical ethnic studies are so insulated by Marxism and identity politics that they miss insights from other fields.”

CRT Scholarship on Teaching Methods is Also Used to Advocate Activism

CRT scholarship on teaching methods is also used to advocate activism, which is dangerous considering the movement’s preference for personal narratives over knowledge and historical facts. The Obama Administration supported such activism in its 2012 report “Advancing Civic Learning and Engagement in Democracy: A Road Map and Call to Action.” In the report, then-Education Secretary Arne Duncan called for a focus on “action civics” instead of “just rote memorization of names, dates, and processes.”

Organizations such as the Sunrise Movement and Generation Citizen, along with the Mikva Challenge at Chicago Public Schools (CPS), to name a few, have promoted action civics in the years since the report’s release.

Curricular content for action civics range from encouraging students to volunteer in their community to suggesting that teachers assign students, even elementary-age students, material that advocates for unionizing workers and protesting against “gentrification,” complex subjects even for adults to consider.

While the CPS efforts endorsed anti-bullying and “School Beautification” projects, the district also advocated for student projects protesting “Police Brutality” and “LGBTQ Awareness,” as well as several walk-outs and sessions to train students to speak to the media about guns and a “Keeping It Real Film Project” that dealt with “transgender rights.”

Some School Systems Have Applied Action Civics to Teaching Disruptive Protests

Seattle Public Schools include recommended reading material on its district website that says responses to the tragic death of George Floyd are “violent and destructive” because “police officers and the National Guard themselves are initiating violence” and “White Americans have a long, storied history of violence and destruction in this country.”

The MacIver Institute in Wisconsin reports that in the 2019–2020 school year, at least five marches were endorsed by school districts across the state, taking students out of the classroom to protest climate change and immigration policies and advocate for Black Lives Matter activities and gun control, to name a few.

The action civics group Generation Citizen has sponsored student projects to advocate for “more stringent mental health and social tolerance tests for NYPD [New York Police Department] applicants” — and ban the use of plastic bags in Rhode Island retail stores, among others.

Again, if this civic instruction was a call for more volunteer work or was somehow aligned with core subjects in which minority students still lag behind their peers, such instruction would be admirable. Yet research on student achievement in civics finds that students are woefully underprepared to understand civic participation and the functions of our nation’s government. Seventy-six percent of 8th graders scored at or below a basic level in civics on the most recent national comparison.

According to iCivics, “[O]nly nine states require a full year of civic education in high school,” and 10 states have no such requirement. Thirty-one states only require civics to be taught for one semester.

Just under half of all Americans cannot name all three branches of government, according to the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Teacher training steeped in critical theory (called “critical pedagogy”) demands action, however, which, when paired with the denunciation of facts described above, begs the question of how students are supposed to know what kind of action is appropriate and what is not.

After the Trump Administration supported policies that drew attention to the problems with CRT in education and the so-called anti-racism training of the federal workforce, two associate professors wrote in Education Week that the U.S. Department of Education should not reject CRT but “should ensure principals and teachers learn how it can be applied to address long-standing educational inequities” and “encourage federal agencies and public schools to embrace critical race theory.”

Parents, teachers, and policymakers concerned about CRT in schools are faced with significant challenges because some educators are determined to keep CRT in classrooms.

School Discipline and Disparate Impact Theory

What do school safety and the devastating school shooting that took the lives of 17 students and staff at a high school in Parkland, Florida, have to do with CRT? Quite a bit, in fact. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, near Parkland, was one of the first school districts in the nation to embrace a school discipline policy that aimed to reduce the suspension and expulsion (“exclusionary discipline”) of minority students.

Like many of the other cursory explanations of public policies or social trends linked to CRT, Broward County school administrators’ stated intent to reduce minority student interactions with police sounds well-intentioned. No one wants a child to be mistreated, and we certainly do not want a student to be treated unfairly because of his or her race.

But as with the other examples offered in this Backgrounder, the foundational ideas behind Broward’s PROMISE student discipline plan and other student behavior interventions that are meant to reduce the so-called school-to-prison pipeline align with CRT—and lead to negative outcomes for students, including minority students. In school discipline, the roots trace to the concept of “disparate impact,” a legal theory that says any policy that is neutral on its face in regard to the treatment of individuals from different ethnicities is still discriminatory if that policy results in disproportionate outcomes for individuals of various ethnicities or attributes (such as minority students or individuals with special needs).

A significant body of legal research and court opinions has been dedicated to advocating the dubious legal theory of disparate impact. Disparate impact seeks to make unlawful entirely neutral, color-blind policies that may have a disproportionate impact on members of different ethnicities. The theory originated in the Civil Rights movement and employment law, but today spans many policy areas, from housing to health care, with much in between.

For the purposes of student discipline, though, so-called social justice advocates have claimed that uniform, color-blind school discipline policies that suspend or expel students based on specific misbehavior result in disparate impacts for minority students.

Some school district administrators' solution, such as those in Broward County, Buffalo Public Schools, Baltimore schools, and other large districts across the country, is to limit the use of exclusionary discipline on minority students, regardless of the nature of a student's actions that may have instigated an educator's disciplinary response and considering only the child's race.

This is the point at which school discipline meets CRT. School officials have adopted policies that treat students differently according to race, viewing policy through a racial lens. Here, it does not matter that white students are disciplined more than Asian students or that higher levels of classroom misbehavior can be found in urban areas where there are concentrations of minority students from disadvantaged backgrounds and single-parent homes. For the policy, all that matters is that black and Hispanic students are disciplined more than white students, which according to this theory, demonstrates that implicit bias causes disproportionate levels of discipline.

Academic Research in CRT Confirms This Theorized Connection

In a 2014 article for the UCLA Law Review entitled "Exclusion, Punishment, Racism and Our schools: A Critical Race Theory Perspective on School Discipline," David Simson says, "[R]acial stigmatization, stereotyping, and implicit biases that are based on a long history of racial prejudice in the United States continue to infuse seemingly objective standards of what is considered appropriate behavior, as well as the practices—such as punitive school discipline—that are used to enforce such standards."

Simson claims "advocates will have to rely on alternative strategies to soften and to reverse the negative impact that punitive school discipline imposes on students, especially minority students." Laurence Parker and David O. Stovall also made the connection in "Actions Following Words: Critical Race Theory Connects to Critical Pedagogy" in a 2004 issue of Educational Philosophy and Theory. They write, "The connection between critical race theory and education would entail linking teaching and research to general practical knowledge about institutional forces that have a disparate impact on racial minority communities."

Empirical researchers, those studying the data on student discipline according to race, also cite a link between CRT and their work. Russell Skiba, a noted researcher in this area of study, was a co-author of "You Can't Fix What You Don't Look at: Acknowledging Race in Addressing Racial Discipline Practices," in which he and his co-authors wrote,

Schools will make the progress if data open a door to reflective and critical conversations about the ways in which school processes, adult actions, and adult interactions with students may contribute to disciplinary outcomes. Sustaining a critical conversation about race patterns means asking questions about the full set of interactions that produce disparate patterns; about how race factors in to [sic] how adults react to students, and how students react to adults; about which false or harmful notions about "races" we carry around with us as we interact; and even when and how thinking of other human beings in terms of race is helpful.

The authors here are not referring to critical thinking in the traditional academic sense of evaluating different possible answers to a question; instead they mean "critical" in the deconstructive sense from the field of CRT.

A federal appeals court ruling in 1997, however, said that school discipline policies based on disparate impact result in disciplinary quotas that "violate equity in its root sense. They entail either systematically

over-punishing the innocent or systematically under-punishing the guilty. They place race at war with justice.”

The highest court has not yet ruled specifically against disparate impact.

Nevertheless, the Obama Administration praised the Broward County program and based a federal directive on school safety and student discipline in 2014 on the idea of disparate impact, adopting many of the recommended student discipline policies from Broward’s program.

The Obama Administration Threatened to Withhold Federal Education Spending

The Administration threatened to withhold federal education spending from schools that reported high rates of exclusionary discipline among minority students, resulting in school district officials around the country limiting educators’ ability to maintain order in the classroom.

While zero-tolerance policies that suspended or expelled students with little review of a particular incident can be too harsh, research finds that limiting exclusionary discipline keeps disruptive and even dangerous students in the classroom. Research finds this policy puts the peers of disruptive students at risk—and correlates with lower academic achievement outcomes for affected students. Educators also report more dangerous school environments in systems using such policies.

Broward County’s PROMISE program and memorandum of understanding with local police were the central documents and policy ideas applying CRT and creating a district-wide culture of limiting student contact, especially minority student contact, with law enforcement—even when students committed actions that endangered others.

In the memorandum, for example, the school district and law enforcement posited that “across the country, students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ students are disproportionately impacted by school-based arrests for the same behavior as their peers,” demonstrating racial, as well as victimization, reasoning behind the program.

As a result, the school district’s PROMISE program was not designed to refer the troubled former student who committed the horrific acts at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in February 2018 to law enforcement in the years prior to the incident. The former student, who is white, had a long list of prior infractions and was sent to participate in the PROMISE program in middle school.

Still, the shooter did not have a record with law enforcement that would have prevented him from owning a gun.

Whether the fault lies with the execution of the PROMISE program or bureaucratic failures by school district officials, the fact remains that Broward school administrators worked with law enforcement and intentionally created a culture that limited student interaction with police and exclusionary discipline. School districts around the country, such as Minneapolis and Milwaukee, are still using such policies, and officials directly state that the plans are meant to limit the exclusionary discipline of minority students.

And while disparate impact predated the founding of CRT, CRT advocates in education are applying this legal theory today to limit teachers’ ability to make decisions based on student behavior—policies that consider students in groups according to skin color, disregarding the importance of individual actions.

All of which led to a devastating, fatal result in Parkland.

Free Speech on College Campuses

Since CRT originated in post-secondary institutions, it comes as no surprise that some of the most intolerant manifestations of CRT are found on university campuses. College grounds have been the home to protests for decades, but many in the current generation of rioters are determined to have their ideas heard and not allow others to express themselves, even sometimes resorting to violence. Further, activist students and their allies issue demands to school administrators that attempt to exercise power over those in positions of authority.

A recent example comes from the State University of New York at Binghamton. In November 2019, disruptive students attacked a College Republicans' display, destroying the flyers and papers on the table, then overturning the tables, all while threatening the students who had set up the display.

Not only did the rioters want to oppose the ideas being displayed, they did not want those ideas to even be available for consideration by anyone else.

Rioters were determined to do this again just days later, when the College Republicans and Young America's Foundation (YAF) invited the noted economist Arthur Laffer to speak on campus. Campus officials offered students who disagreed with YAF and Laffer a lecture hall in which to hold their own event, but the rioters chose instead to block Laffer's lecture. Rioters used physical force to demonstrate their power and shouted down the speaker, standing on desks and screaming until police intervened and stopped the entire event.

While school administrators did not enforce consequences on the disruptive students, school officials did commit resources to an initiative that will scrutinize campus police activities in response to the death of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Notwithstanding that the Laffer shout-down happened on the Binghamton campus and involved enrolled students—while the Blake incident took place in an entirely different state—university leaders said they recognized “protestors” calling for “racial justice” as part of an incident that had nothing to do with what was happening on campus.

The common refrain from progressive observers is that conservative students are the only ones who complain about speech-related incidents.

This can be easily refuted, however, by citing statements from groups like the SUNY-Binghamton College Democrats who condemned this shout-down, even though they disagreed with College Republicans on policy issues.

Shout-Downs Are An Indication of a Specific Worldview That Aligns With CRT

Shout-downs such as this are not a partisan issue, but an indication of a specific worldview that aligns with CRT and its progenitor, Critical Theory, which rioters have adopted.

Other examples clearly illustrate the connection between shout-downs on campus and CRT. In April 2018, Columbia University students marched to the school library and made demands taken straight from the writings of CRT theorists. The students wanted to “decolonize Columbia” and “demanded the University replace or rename statues, make its curriculum more diverse, increase faculty diversity, recognize the debt owed to marginalized peoples, such as the Lenape people [Native American tribes that lived in the northeast], and recognize the decision by graduate students to unionize.”

In a show of force and disregard for authority, students ignored Law School Dean Yadira Ramos-Herbert, who told students they were in violation of school rules and directed them to leave so that students could study.

Over the past decade, events such as these have occurred at colleges around the country, sometimes involving the shout-down of a university president (such as at Duke and the University of Oregon) or the occupation of or damage to large areas of a campus surrounding a professor or invited speaker's remarks (such as at Evergreen State College and the University of California-Berkeley in 2017).

Observers must note the language and terms students used during these campus takeovers are pulled directly from CRT.

At Evergreen, a self-described progressive institution, rioting students intimidated Professor Bret Weinstein during the spring of 2017, gathering around Weinstein and chanting, "[W]e want to dismantle the anti-blackness campus-wide, [sic] we want to give some sense of solidarity and provide safety."

Weinstein's offense was objecting to an unofficial campus policy of requiring white individuals not to come to campus for a day.



Credit: F.I.R.E. – 2015 Yale Halloween costume incident.

The Evergreen Saga is Powerfully Documented in a Series of Videos Created by Mike Nayna That Make for Terrifying Viewing

Rioting students occupied administrative buildings, at one point trapping the school president in his office and only allowing him to use the bathroom under escort.

Yale students and faculty made headlines in 2015 when students demanded the removal of two professors. One of these faculty, noted early childhood scholar Erika Christakis, wrote an e-mail to the school community suggesting the school administration's guidelines regarding Halloween costumes deserved more consideration and might be "heavy-handed."

Angry students confronted Erika's husband, Nikolas, saying the school was "no longer a safe space," with another student saying the professor's words were an "act of violence," an idea drawn from Critical Theory that words and discourse create reality and therefore can cause physical harm.

Offended students drew from CRT's language and ideas in a written response to Erika's e-mail, saying the school itself suffers from "intolerable racism that students of color experience every day," then touched on intersectionality by saying Yale has a "long history of racism...which has disproportionately harmed women of color."

Again, such demands from a college community are becoming more common. Hundreds of Princeton faculty sent a letter to the university president earlier in 2020 laced with CRT language. "Anti-Blackness is foundational to America," the letter says and asks the administration to "support us in this effort to disrupt the institutional hierarchies perpetuating inequity and harm."

A group of students at Sarah Lawrence calling themselves the "Diaspora Coalition" occupied a building on campus in 2019 and issued a list of wide-ranging demands that included a "mandatory first-year orientation session about intellectual elitism and classism," along with more free laundry soap.¹²¹

While CRT literature does not demand laundry services, its denunciation of free speech and classical liberal values that allow anyone, regardless of the color of his or her skin or family background, to live in a civil society are serious. Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay write in *Cynical Theories*, "Certain views—academic views—shared by professionals—are considered too dangerous or even 'violent' to be allowed a platform."

Herbert Marcuse Wrote That Society Should Only Be Tolerant of the Ideas From Oppressed Groups, and That Conservative Ideas Should be Repressed

Indeed, in 1968, Critical Theorist Herbert Marcuse wrote that society should only be tolerant of the ideas from oppressed groups, and that conservative ideas should be repressed. Marcuse wrote:

It should be evident by now that the exercise of civil rights by those who don't have them presupposes the withdrawal of civil rights from those who prevent their exercise, and that liberation of the Damned of the Earth presupposes suppression not only of their old but also of their new masters....Withdrawal of tolerance from regressive movements before they can become active; intolerance even toward thought, opinion, and word, and finally, intolerance in the opposite direction, that is, toward the self-styled conservatives, to the political Right—these anti-democratic notions respond to the actual development of the democratic society which has destroyed the basis for universal tolerance.

CRT writers applied this idea to their area of study. Richard Delgado wrote in 1994, "We are raising the possibility that the correct argument may sometimes be: the First Amendment condemns [the suppression of speech, even hate speech], therefore the First Amendment (or the way we understand it) is wrong."

Still more pointedly, Delgado and Jean Stefancic write in *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*, "If one is an idealist, campus speech codes, tort remedies for racist speech, diversity seminars, and increasing the representation of black, brown, and Asian actors on television shows will be high on one's list of priorities."

Again, remember CRT founder Derrick Bell's comment cited earlier in this Backgrounder that CRT scholarship should incite rebellion and "most critical race theorists are committed to a program of

scholarly resistance, and most hope scholarly resistance will lay the groundwork for wide-scale resistance.”

In addition to CRT’s central tenets of disrupting systems of power and destabilizing classical liberal civil and political structures, CRT and Critical Theory object to free speech as a cornerstone of society. The themes and logical responses from CRT proponents are echoed by students who shout down professors, guest speakers, and even other students at colleges across the country.

The Workplace and CRT Trainings

The CRT-influenced trainings that are often seen in America’s workplaces and schools are little more than modern-day versions of the struggle sessions that Gramsci recommended for European workers in 1920s, in the sense that they seek to replace what its practitioners see as a “cultural hegemony” with a “counter-hegemony.”

A well-known example of this indoctrination came in 2020 from the National Museum for African American History and Culture, a Smithsonian institution. Until President Trump and others criticized it, forcing administrators to take it down, the museum ran an “anti-racist” chart that disparaged “hard work” and “cause and effect relationships” and criticized ideas such as “hard work is the key to success,” “work before play,” and “objective, rational linear thinking,” saying these are attributes of “white dominant culture, or whiteness.”

But even after taking down the racist chart, the museum continued to host this web portal on “whiteness.”

It says, among other things, that “[w]hiteness and the normalization of white racial identity throughout America’s history have created a culture where nonwhite persons are seen as inferior or abnormal.”

Other examples of CRT training in the federal workforce include the Treasury Department holding a session telling employees that “virtually all White people contribute to racism” and the Department of Homeland Security hosting a training on “microaggressions, microinequities, and micro assaults,” in which white employees were told that they had been “socialized into oppressor roles.”

Nor are the efforts to subvert society limited to the federal workforce. The Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), the lobbying arm of human resource (HR) professionals, uses empathetic language in its descriptions of diversity training sessions, such as making work “a place where we, our members, and our business community can bring our unique professional talents to stand together against all forms of social injustice.”

No One Wants Injustice to Exist in the Workplace—or Anywhere—But SHRM’s Training Materials Follow the Design of Other Modern-Day Applications of CRT

The SHRM is influential, noting in its promotional material that the organization has over 300,000 human resource and business executive members in 165 countries—and impacts some 115 million workers.

So employers and employees alike should be concerned when its “Conversation Starters” initiative contains verbiage found in CRT scholarship, such as “unconscious bias.”

Examples of this text include the organization’s survey finding that “52 [percent] of organizations have provided or plan to provide new training on implicit/unconscious bias, equity, inclusion, or other

diversity-related topics,” followed by guided questions such as: What types of new training has your organization provided on implicit/unconscious bias, equity, inclusion, or other diversity-related topics? Have you sought out guidance or education on how to address your own implicit/unconscious bias?

The SHRM’s survey reports that “60 percent of HR professionals believe organizations have a responsibility to take a stance on important social/societal issues and to communicate that position,” which can put those who are not comfortable having such work conversations in compromising positions. While SHRM’s encouragement to “listen and ask thoughtful questions” and “invite a colleague to coffee” are reasonable, organizations should not pressure employees to become activists or look for examples of unconscious bias.

The SHRM reports that 68 percent of black HR professionals “would decrease or have decreased the amount of goods or services purchased from a company that remained silent on the topic of racial injustice,” again, pushing the singular view of systemic oppression from the perspective of CRT into the business sector.

As for the consultant class itself, the leading ones are all also cut from the CRT cloth. Robin DiAngelo, who charges up to \$75,000 for speaking fees, is described in the book cover for her best seller, *White Fragility*, as “an academic, educator, and author working in the fields of critical discourse analysis and whiteness studies.”

In her book, DiAngelo writes, “All progress we have made in the realm of civil rights has been accomplished through identity politics.... This book is unapologetically rooted in identity politics.”

School District Officials Are Also Paying For Diversity Trainings

In Virginia, Fairfax County Public Schools paid one of the leading voices in the social justice movement, Ibram X. Kendi, \$20,000 to speak before district employees.

Local news reported that the payment is equal to \$300 per minute “at a time when people are scrambling for funds to address how to navigate distance learning and in-person learning for students.” Nearby, in Montgomery County, Maryland, the school board has proposed paying the Mid-Atlantic Equality Consortium \$454,680 to conduct an “anti-racist audit” that will examine “Workforce Diversity,” “Work Conditions,” and a “K–12 Curriculum Review.”

The Washington, DC, public school district says some 2,000 district employees have participated in diversity training programs hosted by the training group Courageous Conversations.

Despite these rich rewards, many of the main practitioners of these CRT trainings—certainly the most famous ones, including DiAngelo, Kendi, Darnisa Amante-Jackson, Glenn E. Singleton, and others—advocate abandoning capitalism, as all Critical Schools have for almost a century now.

CRT’s writers insist that capitalism is a system that rewards only Western traits. In a long New York Times Magazine profile in July 2020, Amante-Jackson was described as “all but utopian as she envisioned a movement away ‘from capitalist, Western’ ideals and described a future education system that would be transformed: built around students’ ‘telling their stories and listening to the stories of others.’”

In the same article, DiAngelo is quoted as saying, “Capitalism is so bound up with racism...capitalism is dependent on inequality, on an underclass. If the model is profit over everything else, you’re not going to look at your policies to see what is most racially equitable.” In his book, *How to Be an Anti-Racist*,

Kendi strongly condemns capitalism: “Capitalism is essentially racist; racism is essentially capitalist. They were birthed together from the same unnatural causes, and they shall one day die together from unnatural causes.”

Despite their expressed desire to eradicate capitalism, DiAngelo addressed 184 Democratic members of the House of Representatives in June 2020, and Kendi’s work is used by the National Museum of African American History and Culture, a Smithsonian Institution.

Media and Entertainment

More evidence that CRT’s proponents are not satisfied to leave any part of mainstream life untouched by the dogmas of intolerance and identity politics can be found in Hollywood. Writing in the *Telegraph*, sociologist Emma Dabiri said actress Zoe Saldana was not “black enough” to play singer Nina Simone in a movie. (Simone’s surviving family members also said Saldana was not black enough.)

Dabiri uses the parlance of CRT, saying “race has been constructed by our society,” and “I am always sensitive to the advantages I might have in comparison with darker[-]skinned black women, because the truth is there is a huge difference in how society treats us.” Dabiri misses the irony that her article criticizes Saldana for not being black enough, criticism that led Saldana to apologize in 2020 for taking the role, four years after the movie was released.

Such incidents are increasingly common, as Douglas Murray explains in *The Madness of Crowds*.

Critics have lobbed race-based screeds at actors such as Armie Hammer for simply being white and an actor, Murray explains. Reviewers criticized actress Scarlett Johansson for playing “an Asian woman’s consciousness inside a white android” in the science fiction film *Ghost in the Shell* with the naysayers seemingly unwilling to suspend belief—even when watching a science fiction film.

At least these performers were able to ply their trade. In 2018, so-called social justice observers publicly shamed Sierra Boggess, a Caucasian actress, for accepting the role of Maria in a BBC production of *West Side Story*. Boggess turned down the role in the wake of the criticism.

In 2020, Kristen Bell and Jenny Slate, two high-profile actresses, announced that they would not play mixed-race characters—in cartoons.

Slate voiced a character whose fictional mother is Jewish and white, as Slate is personally. But since the character is also black, Slate says, “Black characters on an animated show should be played by Black people.” The Bell-Slate announcement is another clear example of how intersectionality—not meritocracy, nor color-blindness—propels decision-making in entertainment, regardless of whether the actors and actresses are aware of the worldview underpinning their choices.

In entertainment, as well as the education and workforce sectors of society, CRT is well-established, driving decision-making according to skin color, and not because of individual value and talent. Furthermore, as CRT advocates express dogmas based in identity politics and other Critical Theory components in mainstream publications, the appearance of these concepts becomes more familiar to the viewing public, helping CRT proponents to “normalize” intolerance and the idea of systemic racism for the average viewer.



Credit: The Weekly Dish-Substack.

Policy Recommendations

Critical Race Theory and identity politics should not drive the government’s creation of categories through the Census and other surveys.

The government at all levels should get out of the business of creating official identity categories, without which identity politics would wither away. It should go back to asking citizens for national origin, language spoken in the home, etc.—actual facts, not synthetic concoctions. It could also introduce questions on family structure (i.e., whether there is both a mother and a father in house, how many children were born in non-intact families, etc.).

The federal government should not support so-called diversity trainings that claim the presence of Critical ideas such as “unconscious bias.”

Federal officials should keep in place President Trump’s Executive Order eliminating CRT trainings in the federal workforce and among federal contractors and use its bully pulpit to encourage the private sector to similarly discontinue these counterproductive “trainings.”

Parents should know what is being taught in their children’s K–12 schools.

State policymakers should require that public schools make their curricular resources available to the public. Parents and taxpayers should have access to the material that teachers are using in the classroom. Some charter schools provide models to follow and already make these resources available.

Such transparency will help families as they make decisions about how and where their children learn by evaluating the offerings of different schools and education institutions.

Federal directives should not micromanage local schools' student discipline policies.

Federal officials should not allow for the reinstatement of the Obama Administration's 2014 "Dear Colleague" Letter on disparate impact, and policymakers should review other sections of federal law to remove the concept of disparate impact.

For example, disparate impact theory is included in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the federal law governing services and spending for children with special needs in public schools.¹⁵⁰

The Obama Administration further embedded this idea in IDEA's regulations at the end of his Administration.

Federal, state, and local officials should allow educators and parents to work together to evaluate disciplinary incidents according to the circumstances and actions involved. School districts should not be required to maintain certain quotas of students who do or do not face exclusionary discipline.

State policymakers must protect free speech on public college campuses—especially when college administrators do not.

State lawmakers should consider proposals that require public university systems to provide student orientation sessions discussing free speech on campus. Policymakers in Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, and Wisconsin have models that other state officials should follow.

State officials should also require public university governing boards to create policies that require university administrators to sanction anyone in a university community, including students, that violate someone else's expressive rights, up to and including suspension and expulsion. Administrators should refer violations of the law to law enforcement, but university officials should protect expressive rights through the enforcement of school codes of conduct.

Glossary

Critical Race Theory: A movement that is "a collection of activists and scholars interested in studying and transforming the relationship among race, racism, and power."

De-Colonialism: An "applied postmodern mind-set" that believes "we must devalue white, Western ways of knowing for belonging to white Westerners and promote Eastern ones (in order to equalize the power imbalance.)"

Disparate Impact: An approach to civil rights enforcement that claims that an entirely neutral policy that does not discriminate on its face, is not intended to discriminate, and does not actually treat individuals differently based on their race still constitutes illegal racial discrimination if it has a "disproportionate" statistical effect among different racial and ethnic groups.

Diversity: Diversity is desirable when it obtains organically as a result of meritocracy. Numerous reports show that companies with women and people from various demographic backgrounds in leadership out-earn companies without them. In one such report this year, McKinsey & Company found that "the relationship between diversity on executive teams and the likelihood of financial outperformance has strengthened over time."

What CRT adherents always mean when they use the term, however, is enforced diversity through the use of mandated or recommended quotas. This cannot but lead to worse outcomes if it results in the

hiring of less-competent workforce or management. It is also coercive. To pretend, as Ibram X. Kendi does, that “[a] racist policy is any measure that produces or sustains racial inequity between racial groups. An antiracist policy is any measure that produces or sustains racial equity between racial groups,” is to demand quotas in hiring, admissions, contracting, etc.

Equity: The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines equity as “justice according to natural law or right, specifically: freedom from bias or favoritism.”

This meaning has been completely inverted in today’s usage. Today, equity has come to mean the opposite of equality. Again, we have Kendi to help us: “The defining question is whether the discrimination is creating equity or inequity. If discrimination is creating equity, then it is antiracist. If discrimination is creating inequity, then it is racist. Someone reproducing inequity through permanently assisting an overrepresented racial group into wealth and power is entirely different than someone challenging that inequity by temporarily assisting an underrepresented racial group into relative wealth and power until equity is reached. The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination.”

Equity, then, means inequality of treatment. Kris Putnam-Walkerly and Elizabeth Russell of the Putnam Consulting Group see equity as something even approaching the Marxian “to each according to his needs.” They write that equity is “different from ‘equality,’ in which everyone has the same amount of something (food, medicine, opportunity) despite their existing needs or assets. In other words, whether you are two feet tall or six, you still get a five-foot ladder to reach a 10-foot platform.” Equity, to them, “is about each of us getting what we need to survive or succeed—access to opportunity, networks, resources, and supports—based on where we are and where we want to go.”

Intersectionality: A term that refers to the “multiple social forces, social identities, and ideological instruments through which power and disadvantage are expressed and legitimized.”

Minorities: This term has evolved to include now the idea of “collective victimization” and is intricately tied to identity politics, which is a political project of the Left. This was not always the case, however. The modern-day usage of this word does not appear in a dictionary until 1961.

In the 18th century, James Madison and the other Founding Fathers used the term to mean those political factions who were numerically inferior to an ideological majority. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the term was used to refer to ethnic minorities in Europe, especially those of the polyglot Ottoman, Russian, and Hapsburg empires.

The sociologist Philip Gleason says the media in 1929 mentioned “disgruntled minorities,” such as “growling Ruthenians” and “scowling Macedonians,” suggesting that “Americans found the spectacle of national minority bickering distasteful.”

In 1938, the U.S. Supreme Court used something close to the modern definition of the term when Justice Harlan Stone asked in footnote four of the U.S. v. Carolene Products decision (but leaving the question unanswered) whether “prejudice against discrete and insular minorities may be a special condition, which tends seriously to curtail the operation of those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect minorities, and which may call for a correspondingly more searching judicial inquiry.”

This is known as the “most famous footnote in law” because it introduced the concept of strict scrutiny.

Louis Wirth, a German-born American sociologist and urbanist associated with the Frankfurt School is credited with defining the term in the modern American meaning for the first time in 1945, in a foundational essay in which he stated: “We may define a minority as a group of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out by the others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination. The existence of a minority in a society implies the existence of a corresponding dominant group enjoying higher social status and greater privileges.” He cited “the Negro, the Indian, and the Oriental,” as well as “Catholics, Jews, and Mormons” as examples of minorities in the United States.

People of Color (POC): This is one of the newest terms in the lexicon. In one of the most comprehensive accounts on the origin of such terms as minorities, Gleason speculates that it “owes part of its appeal to its implicit restriction of the special status accorded ‘designated minorities’ to those distinguished by a racially linked phenotypical feature.”

In an eye-opening op-ed in The New York Times in 2020—eye-opening because of what it said and where it was published—Haney Lopez and Tory Gavito reported on a survey they had just concluded, writing that, “Progressives commonly categorize Latinos as people of color, no doubt partly because progressive Latinos see the group that way and encourage others to do so as well. Certainly, we both once took that perspective for granted. Yet in our survey, only one in four Hispanics saw the group as people of color. In contrast, the majority rejected this designation. They preferred to see Hispanics as a group integrating into the American mainstream, one not overly bound by racial constraints but instead able to get ahead through hard work.”

White Supremacy: The term “white supremacy” can be confusing because it can mean an actual belief in the superiority of white people, in which case it is despicable. However, it is nearly always employed to mean something much larger—anything from classical philosophers to Enlightenment thinkers to the Industrial Revolution. It is constantly used in CRT discourses, yet hardly ever defined. Robin DiAngelo does helpfully supply something close to a definition, one in which she tells us that employing the term to define, say, the KKK, is “reductive” and obscures the entirety of the system.

“White supremacy,” she writes, “is a descriptive and useful term to capture the all-encompassing centrality and assumed superiority of people defined and perceived as white and the practices based on this assumption. White supremacy in this context does not refer to individual white people and their individual intentions or actions but to an overarching political, economic, and social system of domination.” She further states, “While hate groups that openly proclaim white superiority do exist and this term refers to them also, the popular consciousness solely associates white supremacy with these radical groups. This reductive definition obscures the reality of the larger system at work and prevents us from addressing this system.... I hope to have made clear that white supremacy is something much more pervasive and subtle than the actions of explicit white nationalists. White supremacy describes the culture we live in.”

Conclusion

Critical Race Theory began as an academic concept, but we can find the ideas all around us today, from schoolhouses to the corporate world to Hollywood. Racism and intolerance should have no place in America, but CRT is more than just a philosophical objection to discrimination. When followed to its

logical conclusion, CRT is destructive and rejects the fundamental ideas on which our constitutional republic is based.

No nation, not even America, is perfect, but as Abraham Lincoln said in his address to the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield in 1838, "There is no grievance that is a fit object of redress by mob law." We must restore the "temple of liberty...with other pillars, hewn from the solid quarry of sober reason."

Our generation, and every generation, must "let the proud fabric of freedom rest" upon the ideas of liberty, "a reverence for the constitution and laws," and the pursuit of a civil society that offers freedom and opportunity to all Americans, regardless of the color of their skin.

Sapient beings should take every opportunity to demonstrate (using the context from this section as needed) how CRT is a form of reverse racism, why it promotes racial disharmony, and what can happen using its false narratives. They should be able to explain its Marxist roots, why it's part of the idiocracy, and meant for useful idiots.

If this conclusion sounds harsh—it's meant to be—because America's "e pluribus unum" future and survival is at stake!



S.A.P.I.E.N.T. Being

6 – SCT’s 50 A - Z MADNESS Textbooks List

The Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program utilizes a variety of current events and content media sources, and all of the ones used must meet the SAPIENT Beings Journalism Code of Ethics. Furthermore, this qualified content of meaningful points, profound messages, and eloquent arguments are assembled into a cohesive whole, told with high school and college students in mind, and that is what the author Corey Lee Wilson does and where his writing strength lies.

The motivation for the listed titles that have presented themselves is based on pressing topics where there seems to be a lack of sapience confined to the 21st century perspective—but not prior to that. The goal of the topics is to keep things “current.” There is no set priority and sequence for publishing the five SCTs per year and each title’s relevance varies depending on its relative importance each year.

For some of you these MADNESS textbook tiles will be a revelation, an epiphany, a sapient being moment. For others, they will be a triggering event, denial of truth, and a painful intervention. For this reason, and more, there’s a reason the common denominator for each title is the word “madness” and the madness can be felt and expressed in a variety of ways.

The subtitles are an iterative process and most always change as a result of continuous improvement during the book’s development process so here is latest list as of September 18, 2021:

1. **American Madness:** A SAPIENT Being’s Guide to Why a United Culture With Social Cohesion is Best for Humanity
2. **California Madness:** A SAPIENT Being’s Guide to the State’s Recall, Leftist Policies & Progressive Downward Spiral (September 2021)
3. **Capitalism Madness:** A SAPIENT Being’s Guide to Why Free Enterprise & Accessible Markets Are Best For Humanity
4. **China Madness:** A SAPIENT Being’s Guide to Why a Chinese Superpower is Not in the World’s Best Interest
5. **Climate Madness:** A SAPIENT Being’s Guide to Bad Science and Unbiased Analysis of Climate Change & Causes

6. **Communism Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Clarifying Humankind's Horrific Suffering From Communism
7. **Conservative Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Conservative Values Trump Leftist & Liberal Ones
8. **Crime Rate Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Color of Crime, Antifa, BLM, SPLC & OSF Impacts on Criminal Justice (March 2021)
9. **Cultural Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Appreciating Western European Culture's Contribution to Humanity
10. **Democratic Party Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Progressivism Madness of Democratic Party Policies & Agenda
11. **Diversity Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Diversity Programs Are Destroying America's Social Cohesion
12. **Education Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Fixing America's Dysfunctional & Illiberal Educational Systems
13. **Election Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to American Civics, Municipal, State & Federal Electoral Functions
14. **Fake News Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Spotting Fake News Media & How to Help Fight and Eliminate It (January 2021)
15. **Family Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Left's War on America's Nuclear Family, Values & Institutions
16. **Feminism Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Understanding Feminism and Why Sapien Women Reject It
17. **Free Speech Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Big Tech's & Media's Bias Against Conservative Ideals & Values (December 2021)
18. **Generations X Y Z Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to America's Demise From These Three Unsapient Generations
19. **Globalism Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Globalism Undermines America's Exceptionalism & Leadership
20. **Government Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Our Civic Obligation to Fight Government Abuse & Bureaucracy
21. **Gun Control Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide Understanding Gun Facts and Deaths by All Types of Weapons
22. **Health Care Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Pros and Cons of Socialized Health Care Programs & Options
23. **Hollywood Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Liberal Bias of the Entertainment, TV, Music & Sports Industries
24. **Immigration Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to America's Legal vs. Illegal Immigrants and Assimilation

25. **Justice Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Courts, OSF, DOJ, SpyGate, Deep State Corruption & Criminal Justice
26. **Leftist Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Showing Why Leftism's Ongoing Failures Can Be Righted Rightly
27. **Liberal Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Reversing the Unsapient State of Liberal Politics, Policies & Agenda
28. **Mexico Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Mexico & Central America Struggle and Canada Succeeds
29. **Middle East Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Jewish-Christian Love & Tolerance vs. Islam's Extremism & Hate
30. **Minority Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide and Non-Racist Assessment and Understanding of Racial Disparities
31. **New York City Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Analyzing the City's Acute Liberal Madness and Leftist Policies
32. **Obesity Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Curing America's Obesity, Lack of Fitness, and Sedentary Lifestyles
33. **Pandemic Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Progressive Overreach & Totalitarianism of the Lockdowns
34. **Pension Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Fixing the Pending Pension Fund Crisis Before it Bankrupts America
35. **Political Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Identity Politics, Constitutional Crisis & Convention of States
36. **Population Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Addressing Birth Rates, Overpopulation & Irresponsible Conception
37. **Progressivism Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Idiocracy and Hypocrisy of the 'Regressivism' Movement
38. **Racism Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide as to the Idiocracy of CRT, Implicit Bias Training, White Privilege & More
39. **Religion Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Religious Freedom & Choices Make Better American Citizens
40. **Republican Party Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Saviors of the Republic, Constitution & American Dream
41. **Russia Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Understanding How American Capitalism Defeated Soviet Communism
42. **Sexual Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Idiocracy of the New Gender Types and Why They Fail Humanity
43. **Snowflake Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Generations X Y Z Are Unprepared to Lead America Sapiently

44. **Socialism Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Generations' X Y Z Love of Socialism Will Ruin the America Dream
45. **Technology Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the Dangers of Big Tech Mind Control, AI & Addiction to Electronics
46. **Third World Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Understanding Why Third World Nations Remains Third Rate
47. **Trump Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Why Fighting Politics & Elitism as Usual Can Help Cure Governing Madness
48. **Union Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Fighting Public Union's Monopsonistic Political Power & Public Policy
49. **United Nations Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to the New World Order of Soros, Leftists & Progressives
50. **Voting Madness:** A SAPIENT Being's Guide to Election Irregularities, Voter Fraud, Mail-In Ballots, HR1 and More (May 2021)



7 – Journalism Code of Ethics, Practical Logic & Sapience Guidelines

The S.A.P.I.E.N.T. Being's Journalism Code of Ethics, Practical Logic & Sapience Guidelines forms the basis for our motto "truth without bias" and forms the basis and foundation for our textbook ethos, media sources, and journalistic content.

Once asked what it takes to be a successful writer, Ernest Hemingway replied, "A good crap-detector." Crude? Perhaps. What he meant was an ability to separate the authentic from the phony, the real from the illusory, the significant from the trivial, the artistic from the artful, the truth from the BS.

It's not only the writer and reader who needs that capacity. Everyone does, and more so these days with hip boots due to fake news, false narratives, and cancel culture. Lacking it, we can do little more than slip and slide from the brainwashing effect of academia, mainstream media, and big tech. Or we can fight back and help eliminate it? One effective way to do that is to master practical logic and the correct rules of argument.

The SAPIENT Being utilizes the Society of Professional Journalists: Code of Ethics (Straubhaar, LaRose & Davenport, pages 478-79) in regard to its journalistic research and reporting standards. The Society of Professional Journalists created a code of ethics that are in effect today and outlined below.

These standards provide the foundation of journalistic ethics and they are supplemented with key practical logic fallacies, confirmation bias, constructive disagreement, replication crisis, along with the mission statement of the SAPIENT Being that promotes the return of free speech, open dialogue and civil discourse and the vision statement of creating a society advancing personal Intelligence and enlightenment now together (S.A.P.I.E.N.T.).

Society of Professional Journalists: Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics from the Society of Professional Journalists used for the first half of this chapter is powerful list because it reminds oneself how mainstream fake news media flagrantly and continuously violate every item on the list. The Code can be used to critique fake news journalism, unsound research,

fact checking, agendas, sources, stereotyping, and so on. In one item there is one added term (ideology) that is shown in parenthesis.

Best Practices:

The main mantra of the code is "Seek truth and Report it!" The code also states that: "Journalists should be honest, fair, and courageous in gathering, reporting, and interpreting information. Journalists should:

- Test the accuracy of information from all sources and exercise care to avoid inadvertent error. Deliberate distortion is never permissible.
- Diligently seek out subjects of news stories to give them the opportunity to respond to allegations of wrongdoing.
- Identify sources whenever feasible. The public is entitled to as much information as possible on sources' reliability.
- Always question sources' motives before promising anonymity. Clarify conditions attached to any promise made in exchange for information. Keep promises.
- Make certain that headlines, news teases, and promotional material, photos, video, audio, graphics, sound bites, and quotations do not misrepresent. They should not oversimplify or highlight incidents out of context.
- Never distort the content of news photos or video. Image enhancement for technical clarity is always permissible. Label montages and photo illustrations.
- Avoid misleading reenactments or staged news events. If reenactment is necessary to tell a story, label it as so.
- Avoid undercover or other surreptitious methods of gathering information except when traditional open methods will not yield information vital to the public. Use of such methods should be explained as part of the story.
- Never plagiarize.
- Tell the story of the diversity and magnitude of the human experience boldly, even, when it is unpopular to do so.
- Examine their own cultural values and avoid imposing on those values on others.
- Avoid stereotyping by (ideology), race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, or social status.
- Support the open exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.
- Give voice to the voiceless; official and unofficial sources of information can be equally valid.

- Distinguish between advocacy and news reporting. Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresent fact or content.
- Distinguish news from advertising and shun hybrids that blur the lines between the two.
- Recognize the special obligation to ensure that the public's business is conducted in the open and that government records are open to inspection.

Minimize Harm:

Ethical journalists treat sources, subjects, and colleagues as human beings deserving of respect. Journalists should:

- Show compassion for those who may be affected adversely by news coverage. Use special sensitivity when dealing with children and inexperienced sources or subjects.
- Be sensitive when seeking or using interviews or photographs of those affected by tragedy or guilt.
- Recognize that gathering and reporting information may cause harm or discomfort. Pursuit of the news is not a license for arrogance.
- Recognize that private people have a greater right to control information about themselves than do public officials and others who seek power, influence, or attention. Only an overriding public need can justify intrusion into anyone's privacy.
- Show good taste. Avoid pandering to lurid curiosity.
- Be cautious of identifying juvenile suspects or victims of sex crimes.
- Be judicious about naming criminal suspects before the formal filing of charges.
- Balance a criminal suspect's fair trial rights with the public's right to be informed.

Act Independently:

Journalists should be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know. Journalists should:

- Avoid conflict of interest, real or perceived.
- Remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility.
- Refuse gifts, favors, fees, free travel, and special treatment, and shun secondary employment, political involvement, public office, and service in community organizations if they compromise journalistic integrity.
- Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable.

- Deny favored treatment to advertisers and special interests and resist their pressure to influence news coverage.
- Be wary of sources offering information for favors or money; avoid bidding for news."

Be Accountable:

Journalists are accountable to their readers, listeners, viewers, and each other. Journalists should:

- Clarify and explain news coverage and invite dialogue with the public over journalistic conduct.
- Encourage the public to voice grievances against the news media."
- Admit mistakes and correct them promptly.
- Expose unethical practices of journalists and the news media.
- Abide by the same high standards to which they hold others.

Practical Logic to the Rescue and Intervention

Per Vincent E. Barry, author of the 1980 timeless classic *Practical Logic*, listed in alphabetical order is a quick and short definition of the essential practical logic terms for your use as needed. There's no better written way of calling out fake news than quoting these:

Argument from analogy is an inductive argument in which a known similarity that two things share is used as evidence for concluding that the two things are similar in other respects.

Argument from ignorance fallacy is the argument that uses an opponent's inability to disprove a conclusion as proof of the conclusion's correctness.

Argument is any group of propositions true or false statements one of which is said to follow from the others.

Common practice fallacy is an argument that attempts to justify wrongdoing on the basis of some practice that has become commonly accepted.

Compatibility refers to whether or not a hypothesis fits in with a body of knowledge that is already accepted as true.

Deductive argument is one whose conclusion is claimed to follow from its premises with logical certainty in logic a deductive argument whose premises necessarily lead to its conclusion is termed a valid argument.

Fallacies of ambiguity are those fallacies arising from careless language usage.

Fallacies of relevance are those arguments whose premises are logically a relevant to their conclusions.

Fallacy is a type of argument that may seem to be correct but is not.

Fallacy of accent is an argument whose justification depends on a shift in emphasis on a word or phrase.

Fallacy of accident is an argument that applies a general rule to a particular case Whose special circumstances make the rule inapplicable.

Fallacy of ad hominem is an argument that attacks the person who makes an assertion rather than the person's argument.

Fallacy of begging the question is an argument that assumes as a premise the very conclusion it intends to prove.

Fallacy of biased question is an argument based upon the answer to a question that is worded to draw a predetermined reply.

Fallacy of biased sample is an argument that contains a sample that is not representative of the population being studied.

Fallacy of complex question is an argument that in asking a question assumes the conclusion at issue.

Fallacy of composition is an argument that attributes characteristics of the parts to a whole.

Fallacy of concealed evidence is an argument that presents only facts that are favorable to its conclusion while suppressing relevant but non-supportive facts.

Fallacy of division is an argument that attributes to the parts of a whole the characteristics of the whole itself.

Fallacy of equivocation is an argument that uses the word or phrase in such a way that it carries more than a single meaning.

Fallacy of false analogy is an argument that makes an erroneous comparison.

Fallacy of false authority is an argument that violates any of the criteria for a justifiable appeal to authority.

Fallacy of false dilemma is an argument that erroneously reduces the number of possible positions for alternatives on an issue.

Fallacy of fear or force is an argument that uses the threat of harm for the acceptance of a conclusion.

Fallacy of hasty conclusion is an argument that draws a conclusion based on insufficient evidence.

Fallacy of invincible ignorance is an argument that insists on the legitimacy of an idea or principle despite contradictory fact.

Fallacy of mob appeal is an argument that attempts to persuade by arousing a group's deepest emotions.

Fallacy of pity is an argument uses pity to advance a conclusion.

Fallacy of popularity is an argument that tries to justify something strictly by appeal to numbers.

Fallacy of positioning is an argument that tries to capitalize on the earned reputation of a leader in a field to sell something.

Fallacy of provincialism is an argument that views things exclusively in terms of group loyalty.

Fallacy of questionable causation is an argument that asserts that a particular circumstance produces that it causes a particular phenomenon when there is in fact little or no evidence to support set contention.

Fallacy of questionable classification is an argument that classifies somebody or something on the basis of insufficient evidence.

Fallacy of slippery slope is an argument that objects to a position on the erroneous belief that the position if taken will set off a chain of events that ultimately will lead to undesirable action.

Fallacy of two wrongs make a right is an argument that attempts to justify what is considered wrong by appealing to other instances of the same action.

Fallacy of unknown fact is an argument that contains premises that are unknowable either in principle or in this particular case.

Generalization is a statement that covers many specifics.

Guilt by association fallacy is an argument in which people are judged guilty solely on the basis of the company they keep or the places they frequent.

Hypothesis must be relevant that is it should explain the problem directly.

Inductive argument is one whose conclusion is a generalization.

Inductive generalization is an inductive argument whose conclusion is a generalization.

Informal fallacies are commonplace errors in reasoning that we fall into because of careless language usage or inattention to the subject matter.

Intuition is the direct apprehension of knowledge that is not the result of conscious reasoning or of immediate sense perception.

Irrelevant reason fallacy is the argument whose premises are totally irrelevant to the conclusion.

Justification refers to the reasonableness of the evidence to support a conclusion.

Method of agreement states that if two or more instances of a phenomenon have only one circumstance in common then that circumstance is probably the cause for the effect of the phenomena.

Method of concomitant variation states that whenever a phenomenon varies in a particular way as another phenomenon varies in a particular way then a causal relationship probably exists between them.

Method of difference states that if an instance where the phenomenon occurs in an instance where it doesn't occur have every circumstance in common except one in that circumstance occurs only in the former than the circumstances probably the cause or the effect of the phenomenon.

Necessary and sufficient cause any condition that must be present for the effect to occur in one that will bring about the effect to one and of itself.

Necessary cause is a condition that must be present if the effect is to occur.

Occam's razor is the problem-solving principle that "entities should not be multiplied without necessity", or more simply, the simplest explanation is usually the right one.

Objectivity refers to the quality of viewing ourselves in the world without distortion.

Persuasive definition is one that departs from conventional word meaning in order to influence attitudes.

Post-hoc fallacy is an argument that asserts that one event is the cause of another from the mere fact that the first occurred earlier than the second.

Predictability refers to the explanatory power that a hypothesis has.

Premises of arguments are those statements that are claimed to until the conclusion. The conclusion is the statement that supposedly is entailed by the premises.

Proposition is true means the proposition describes a state of affairs.

Public verification means that almost anyone wanting could verify the claim.

Reason is the capacity to draw conclusions from evidence.

Sampling technique is the method of procedure used to generate a sample.

Scientific method is a way of investigating a phenomenon that's based on the collective analysis and into interpretation of evidence to determine the most probable explanation. The five basic steps in scientific method: 1) statement of the problem, 2) collection of facts, 3) formulating a hypothesis, 4) making further inferences, and 5) verifying the inferences.

Simplicity refers to a hypothesis capacity to account for the facts and data in the most economical way of all the alternatives.

Statistical generalization is a statement that asserts that something is true of a percentage of a class.

Stipulative definition is one that attaches unique or at least unconventional meaning to a term.

Stratified sample is a sampling technique in which relevant strata within the group are identified and a random sample from each stratum is selected in proportion to the number of members in each stratum.

Straw man fallacy is an argument that alters a position that the result is easier to attack than the original.

Sufficient cause is any condition that by itself will bring about the effect.

Supporting testimony refers to the observations of other (viewpoint diverse) observers that tend to support the evidence presented.

Testability refers to whether or not a hypothesis offers observations that will confirm or disconfirm it.

True premises do not of themselves justify and inductive conclusion an argument is sound when in the case of induction, it is Justified; or win in the case of deduction it is both valid and true.

Universal generalization is a statement that asserts that something is true of all members of a class.

Recommendations for Tech Companies

The Media Research Center (MRC) has undertaken an extensive study of the problem at major tech companies' effort to censor the conservative worldview from the public conversation and formulated a guidebook in 2018, titled *CENSORED! How Online Media Companies Are Suppressing Conservative Speech*.

Like it or not, social media is the communication form of the future—not just in the U.S., but worldwide. Facebook and Twitter combined reach 1.8 billion people. More than two-thirds of all Americans (68 percent) use Facebook. YouTube is pushing out TV as the most popular place to watch video. Google is the No. 1 search engine in both the U.S. and the world.

As previously covered, war is being declared on the conservative movement in this space and conservatives are losing—badly. If the right is silenced, billions of people will be cut off from conservative ideas and conservative media. It's the new battleground of media bias. But it's worse. That bias is not a war of ideas. It's a war against ideas. Below is a list of suggestions from MRC to deal with this problem:

People are Policy:

Tech companies like Google and Facebook are making a nominal effort to hire conservatives, but that doesn't address the core problems within those organizations. Companies need to eliminate policies and biases that discriminate against conservatives. They also need to protect employees' ability to disagree with the pervasive liberal groupthink that dominates the industry.

Tech Companies Must Provide Transparency:

People and organizations have their posts and videos either restricted or deleted on all major platforms. If those companies expect their users to trust them, they must make this system transparent. They must show at least when posts of organizations and public figures are deleted and when they aren't. That would give users a baseline of what speech is allowed on a platform, not just whatever the companies choose to delete.

Expect Regulation at This Pace:

Tech companies are facing calls for regulation from left and right. The firms should address this by setting rules about how they will treat both conservative and liberal organizations and information fairly. This means clear, published guidelines must be established that support free speech online. Algorithms, content guidelines and ad policies must be designed that don't target political speech. Firms must stop pretending disagreement is equivalent to hate speech. Fairness and transparency are equally essential.

Avoid Partnering With Bad Actors:

Twitter, YouTube and others had tried to establish policies that prevent so-called hate speech on their platforms. But those policies are being enforced by organizations that spew hate against the conservative movement and can't pretend to be neutral players. Groups like the SPLC and ADL label core conservative values as "hate" or "bigotry." Tech companies can't expect conservatives to trust a system that is so blatantly one-sided.

Modify Flagging Systems:

One of the worst problems tech companies grapple with is the abuse of their flagging and reporting systems. YouTube, Twitter and Facebook, in particular, succumb to liberal activists who game their systems and constantly report conservative content. These services must determine a better way to handle alerts that do not allow coordinated campaigns against the right.

Use Neutral Fact-Checkers:

If social media sites are going to attempt to be the arbiters of what is real news, they must rely on fact-checking sources that are neutral and fair toward stories on both sides of the aisle. Relying on sites like Snopes, which has a clear liberal bias, raises concerns over whether the tech giants are trying to promote a liberal political narrative.

Avoiding Personal Bias and Faulty Research Methods

The sections above provide a solid foundation for spotting and fighting fake news in all its forms and uses in an ethical and journalistic manner. The ones below from a sociological and psychological perspective, can also assist in our crusade to improve journalistic, media, and research standards and make them more sapient in the process.

Constructive Disagreement is Good

Constructive disagreement occurs when people who don't see eye-to-eye are committed to exploring an issue together, alive to their own fallibility and the limits of their knowledge—and open to learning something from others who see things differently than they do.

When people lack the skill or the will to disagree constructively, disputes about theories, methods, data, analysis, or solutions can take on the character of zero-sum power struggles rather than opportunities for mutual growth and discovery. People become more polarized and closed-minded. They grow less likely to share and cooperate, and more likely to withhold key information, or engage in bad faith for competitive advantage.

Mistakes and failures are more likely to be weaponized against scholars rather than being understood as an unavoidable part of the iterative process of exploration, trial, error, discovery, and revision that lies at the core of the scientific method. People grow less likely to take risks or tolerate uncertainty. Under these circumstances, increased diversity can become a liability—a source of additional paranoia and strife—rather than an asset.

Confirmation Bias is Bad and Everywhere

As an example, a *Reason* study by Ronald Bailey in 2011 titled “Climate Change and Confirmation Bias” suggests that your values, not science, determine your views about climate change.

The Pew Research Center conducted a 2009 survey comparing the political ideologies of scientists and the general public. Only 9 percent of scientists identified as conservative, 35 percent as moderate, and 52 percent as liberal, with 14 percent claiming to be very liberal. In contrast, the general public identifies as 37 percent conservative, 38 percent moderate, and 20 percent liberal, and 5 percent very liberal.

Slicing the data another way, the survey finds that 81 percent of scientists lean Democrat whereas 52 percent of the general public does. Another telling division between the beliefs of the general public versus scientists is their responses to this statement: “When something is run by the government, it is usually inefficient and wasteful.” Fifty-eight percent of scientists disagreed, whereas 57 percent of the public agreed with it.

The quest for publication has led some scientists to manipulate data, analysis, and even their original hypotheses. In 2014, John Ioannidis, a Stanford professor conducting research on research (or ‘meta-research’), found that across the scientific field, “many new proposed associations and/or effects are false or grossly exaggerated.” Ioannidis, who estimates that 85 percent of research resources are wasted, claims that the frequency of positive results well exceeds how often one should expect to find them. He pleads with the academic world to put less emphasis on “positive” findings.

Ironically, the scientific method is meant to combat confirmation bias: scientists are encouraged to search primarily for falsifying evidence, then confirmation of their hypothesis. The rigors of science, however, are often outweighed by the realities of getting and keeping a job. With their academic careers and tenure contingent on getting published, scientists have moved from testing “How am I wrong?” to simply asking “How am I right?”

“At present, we mix up exploratory and confirmatory research,” Brian Nosek, a psychologist with the University of Virginia, told Philip Ball. “You can’t generate hypotheses and test them with the same data.”

The Replication Crisis in Science is Real

Because the reproducibility of experimental results is an essential part of the scientific method, the inability to replicate the studies of others has potentially grave consequences for many fields of science in which significant theories are grounded on unreproducible experimental work. The replication crisis has been particularly widely discussed in the field of psychology and in medicine, where a number of efforts have been made to re-investigate classic results, to determine both the reliability of the results and, if found to be unreliable, the reasons for the failure of replication.

A 2016 poll of 1,500 scientists reported that 70% of them had failed to reproduce at least one other scientist's experiment (50% had failed to reproduce one of their own experiments). In 2009, 2% of scientists admitted to falsifying studies at least once and 14% admitted to personally knowing someone who did. Misconducts were reported more frequently by medical researchers than others.

The replication crisis in the sciences has just begun. It will be big when it's over. After a decade of slow growth beneath public view, the replication crisis in science begins breaking into public view. First psychology and biomedical studies, now spreading to many other fields—overturning what we were told is settled science, the foundations of our personal behavior and public policy.

This crisis emerged a decade ago as problems in a few fields—especially health care and psychology. Slowly similar problems emerged in other fields, usually failures to replicate widely accepted research. Economics, with its high standards for transparency—has been hit and even physics has been affected.



S.A.P.I.E.N.T. Being

8 – Resources

Below are a number of important resources that also provide value for reports, debates, and research topics that are utilized (as well as many others that are not listed here) as being crucial to the three SAPIENT Being programs consisting of the Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC) Program, World Of Writing Warriors (WOWWW) Program, and the Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT) Program. To one degree or the other on the intellectual playing field and marketplace of ideas—they are diverse, equitable, and inclusive and all have as their foundation the telos of truth.

1619 Project—Frederick Douglass vs. the 1619 Project: <https://youtu.be/ajJlu3eoRIk>

1776 ORGANIZATIONS:

- **1776 Action:** <https://www.1776action.org/>
- **1776 History Project:** <https://the1776historyproject.com/>
- **1776 Project:** <https://1776project.org/>
- **1776 Unites:** <https://1776unites.com/>
- **1776 White House Commission:** <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Presidents-Advisory-1776-Commission-Final-Report.pdf>

50 MADNESS Book Titles: <https://www.fratirepublishing.com/madnessbooks>

AllSides: “From the Left” and “From the Center” and “From the Right” News Comparison:
<https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>

American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA): <https://www.goacta.org/>

Civics Renewal Network (Annenberg Public Policy Center): <https://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/>

***Coddling of the American Mind, The: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure* (Haidt, Jonathan and Lukianoff, Greg):** <https://www.thecoddling.com/>

College Fix, The : <https://www.thecollegefix.com/>

College Free Speech Rankings – 2021 (FIRE, RealClearEducation and College Pulse):
<https://reports.collegepulse.com/college-free-speech-rankings-2021>

Content and Media Release Form: https://d68a3b84-6415-475d-818c-ab8cdd34b311.filesusr.com/ugd/3c625c_be3170ab7bb745a89d261e9009a4553c.pdf

Craziest College Courses of 2019: <https://www.campusreform.org/?ID=14146>.

Critical Race Theory Is Dangerous. Here's How to Fight It:
<https://www.nationalreview.com/2021/03/critical-race-theory-is-dangerous-heres-how-to-fight-it/>

Documentaries: <https://curiositystream.com/>

Fact Check Review Methodology (RealClearPolitics):
https://www.realclearpolitics.com/fact_check_review_methodology.html

FOUNDATION for INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS in EDUCATION (FIRE): <https://www.thefire.org>

- **Chicago Statement, Adopting:** <https://www.thefire.org/get-involved/student-network/take-action/adopting-the-chicago-statement/>
- **Faculty Legal Defense Fund:** <https://www.thefire.org/legal/faculty-legal-defense-fund/>
- **FIRE Legal Network:** <https://www.thefire.org/legal/fires-legal-network/>

HERITAGE FOUNDATION, THE: <http://heritage.org/>

- **Critical Race Theory, the New Intolerance, and Its Grip on America:**
<https://www.heritage.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/BG3567.pdf>
- **Intolerance as Illiberalism:** <https://www.heritage.org/political-process/commentary/intolerance-illiberalism>
- **The Truth About Critical Race Theory:**
https://youtu.be/vxTMNu31DHU?list=PLBs6_t5NjudRVTmj4r05v41k0LEEclKyp

HETERODOX ACADEMY (HxA): <https://heterodoxacademy.org>

- **Campus Expression Survey:** <https://2cnzc91figkyqqeq8390pgd1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CES-Student-Manual-FINAL-.pdf>
- **Curiosity U:** <https://heterodoxacademy.org/blog/curiosity-u/>
- **OpenMind Platform:** <https://openmindplatform.org/>

HILLSDALE COLLEGE: <https://www.hillsdale.edu/>

- **Civil Rights in American History:** <https://online.hillsdale.edu/landing/civil-rights-in-american-history>
- **Constitution 101 – The Meaning and History of the Constitution:**
<https://online.hillsdale.edu/landing/constitution-101>
- **Constitution 201 – The Progressive Rejection of the Founding and the Rise of Bureaucratic Despotism:** <https://online.hillsdale.edu/landing/constitution-201>

iCivics (SCOTUS Sonia Sotomayor): <https://www.icivics.org/>

Journalism Code of Ethics, Practical Logic & Sapience Guidelines: https://d68a3b84-6415-475d-818c-ab8cdd34b311.filesusr.com/ugd/3c625c_9f3c5441388c4cddb88f7935e6798262.pdf

Judicial Watch: <https://www.judicialwatch.org/>

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE, THE: <https://www.leadershipinstitute.org>

- **Activism:** <https://www.leadershipinstitute.org/Training/?Training=Activism>
- **Campus Reform:** <https://www.campusreform.org/>

- **Evil Empire on Campus, The: Leftist Abuses and Bias (Leadership Institute):** https://www.leadershipinstitute.org/img/writings/Left_Bias_and_Abuse.pdf

MEDIA RESEARCH CENTER (MRC): <https://www.mrc.org/>

News Bureaus:

- **CNSNews:** <https://www.cnsnews.com/>
- **NewsBusters:** <https://www.newsbusters.org/>
- **MRC Business:** <https://www.newsbusters.org/business>
- **MRC Culture:** <https://www.newsbusters.org/culture>
- **MRC Latino:** <https://www.newsbusters.org/latino>
- **MRCTV:** <https://www.mrctv.org/>
- **MRC Action:** <https://www.mrc.org/action>

Reports:

- **Special Report: Columbia University:** <https://www.mrc.org/special-reports/special-report-columbia-university>
- **Journalists Denying Liberal Bias—Parts One, Two & Three:**
<https://www.mrc.org/media-bias-101/journalists-denying-liberal-bias-part-one>
<https://www.mrc.org/media-bias-101/journalists-denying-liberal-bias-part-two>
<https://www.mrc.org/media-bias-101/journalists-denying-liberal-bias-part-three>
- **CENSORED! How Online Media Companies Are Suppressing Conservative Speech:**
<https://cdn.mrc.org/static/censored/mrc-censorship-report.pdf>

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in Civics:

https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/hgc_2014/

PEW RESEARCH CENTER: <https://www.pewresearch.org/>

- **How Americans Get Their News:** <https://www.journalism.org/2016/07/07/pathways-to-news/>
- **How We Evaluated Americans' Trust in 30 News Sources:** <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/01/24/qa-how-pew-research-center-evaluated-americans-trust-in-30-news-sources/>
- **The Modern News Consumer:** https://www.journalism.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2016/07/PJ_2016.07.07_Modern-News-Consumer_FINAL.pdf

PRAGER U: <https://www.prageru.com/>

- **Critical Race Theory: How Worried Should You Be?:** <https://www.prageru.com/video/james-lindsay-on-critical-race-theory-how-worried-should-you-be>
- **Restricted: How Big Tech is Taking Away Your Freedom:**
https://www.prageru.com/video/restricted?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=campaign_2942810
- **What is Fake News?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOZ0irgLwxU&app=desktop>

Research Report Proposal Template: https://d68a3b84-6415-475d-818c-ab8cdd34b311.filesusr.com/ugd/3c625c_5776f5c96fb64c1092b3403a565be19e.pdf

SAPIENT BEING PROGRAMS: <https://www.sapientbeing.org/programs>

- **Make Free Speech Again On Campus (MFSAOC)**
- **Sapient Conservative Textbooks (SCT)**
- **World Of Writing Warriors (WOWW)**

State of Civics Education, The: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2018/02/21/446857/state-civics-education/>

Teaching Tolerance—Civil Discourse in the Classroom:

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications/civil-discourse-in-the-classroom/learn-more>

TEMPLETON FOUNDATION, JOHN: <https://www.templeton.org>

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