

Student's Truth Matters for Students Toolkit

EDUCOLOR



A resource for students who want their schools to #teachtruth in an age of censorship and misinformation. Thoughtfully brought to you by the folks at EduColor & The Expectations Project.



What's going on?

The CRT bans occurring across the country are not rooted in a concern for you or your access to quality education. They are the result of people in power causing fear in order to push forward their political ideas that are racist and not about children. These CRT bans are about criminalizing anything that questions history, power, and race. This means that teaching the truth about history, which empowers students to understand the past and dream of a better future, is seen as a threat to people who seek to maintain control through the status quo.



Why does teaching truth matter?

As a student, you deserve a school system that honors its ethical responsibility not to knowingly teach false or distorted information. More importantly, unless schools support students in developing a full and honest understanding of the history and current realities of the world you're inheriting, they do students harm by distorting your view of yourself, of the situations you must confront, and of the society you will one day lead. This is especially important for students of color who have a long tradition in this country of resisting racist systems.

What can I do to fight back?

Connect!

Find other students who want truth taught so you can support each other.



Learn!

Find current, accurate information on the anti-CRT policies affecting schools in your community – your teachers may not know.



Speak Up!

Start with your teachers, administrators and parents/caregivers sharing why teaching truth matters to you.



Show Up!

With adults, attend meetings your school, school board and communities have where you can make your voice heard.

Who can I talk to?

Always begin with your teacher. Ask them questions about anti racist ideas when you're in class. If that is not a good idea, then ask them questions in separate meetings. If you've addressed them, you can turn to the Assistant Principal.

KEY TERMS: **Anti-racism:** A proactive approach to policies, practices, and procedures to promote racial equity. **Critical Race Theory:** An academic framework for critically examining the extent to which racism is embedded in U.S law. **Culturally Responsive Education:** A research based method of teaching that integrates student's lived experiences, cultures, and languages into curriculum. **Equity:** An approach to education that ensures everyone has access to the resources they need to be successful. **1619 Project:** A journalism initiative developed by Nikole Hannah-Jones, which seeks to center the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans in the American historical narrative.