

### Disrupting the Normalized Continuities of Racial Injustice: The Imperative and Opportunity for Teacher Education

Deborah Loewenberg Ball



Association of Teacher Educators 2022 Annual Meeting Sunday, February 13, 2022 · Chicago, IL





# Map of **Tonight's Talk**



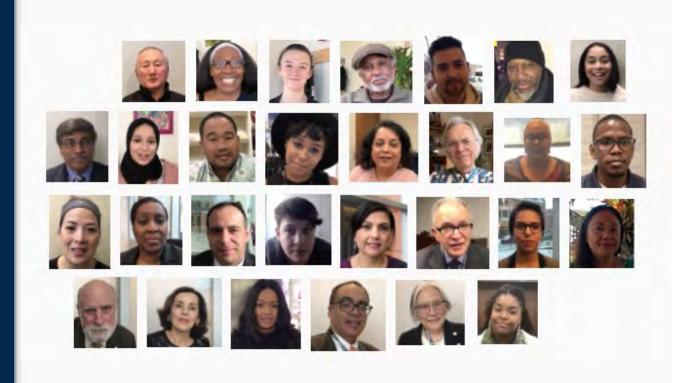
### **MEDUCATION TeachingWorks** UNIVERSITY OF MUCHICAN

- How is teaching powerful?
- What are "continuities of 2. racial injustice"?
- 3. What does it mean to talk about "normalized" practice?
- 4. What is the imperative for teacher preparation?
- 5. What does any of this have to do with "antifragility"?





### How is 1. teaching powerful?



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## Video: Is there a teacher who had a significant impact on you?



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### Teaching can lift individuals up and support 1. them to thrive and flourish.

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- Teaching can lift individuals up and support ٦. them to thrive and flourish.
- 2. It can cause individual and lasting harm.

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- Teaching can lift individuals up and support ٦. them to thrive and flourish.
- 2. It can cause individual and lasting harm.

# It is also powerful systemically.

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# 2. What are "continuities of racial injustice"?



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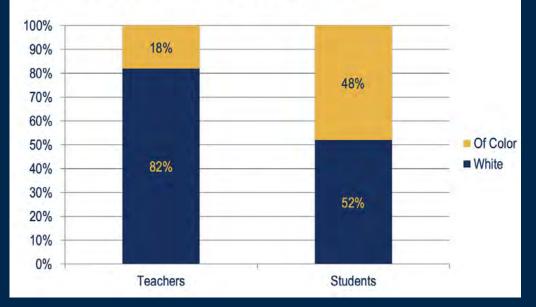






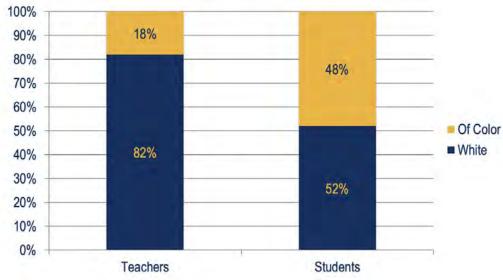


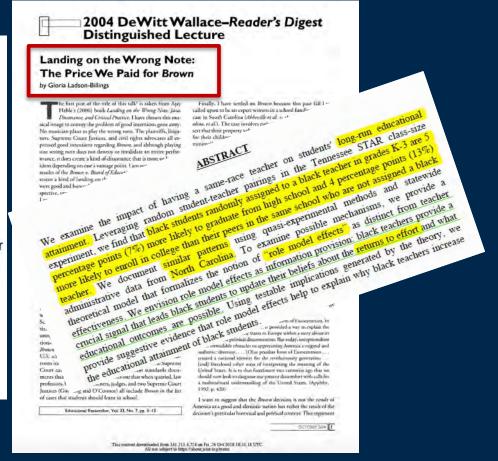
### **DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDE IN THE U.S.: K-12 TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**





### DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDE IN THE U.S.: K-12 TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

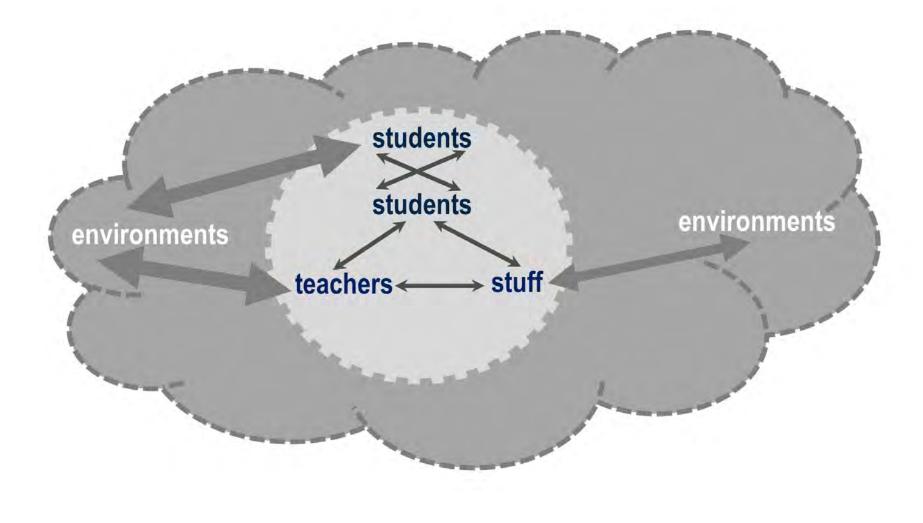














# Racial injustice is systemic.

- Social systems are structured with patterns of racism and injustice. 1.
- The people who work in these systems are educated in our nation's 2. schools.
- The teachers and curricula dominant in our education system 3. comprise a curriculum of white supremacy.

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- 1. Social systems are structured with patterns of racism and injustice.
- The people who work in these systems are educated in our nation's 2. schools
- The teachers and curricula dominant in our education system 3. comprise a curriculum of white supremacy.

# It is also systemically embedded in normal teaching practice.

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3. What does it mean to talk about "normalized practice"?

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## Everyday normalized practice

### CLASSROOM RULES

Do as you're asked when you are asked.

Listen in silence.

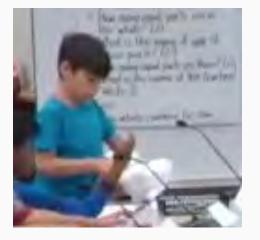
Put up your hand to speak.

Arrive on time to lessons with the correct equipment.

Keep hands, feet, objects and comments to yourself.





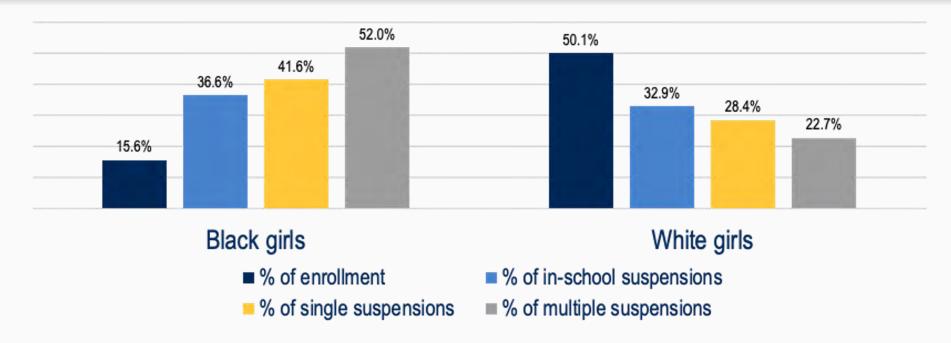








# Patterns of discipline and punishment



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## Normalized practice is familiar

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Math-Drills Com

But we can also be fooled into not seeing normalized practice even in "reform."

Norms are often invisible, precisely because they are "normal."

Their harms, and how they contribute to harm, are often not noticed.

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## Re-seeing the familiar

### Context

- Fifth grade class
- **Predominantly Black** children, a few Latino/a/e, a few white
- Working on mathematical reasoning, permutations

### **Viewing focus**

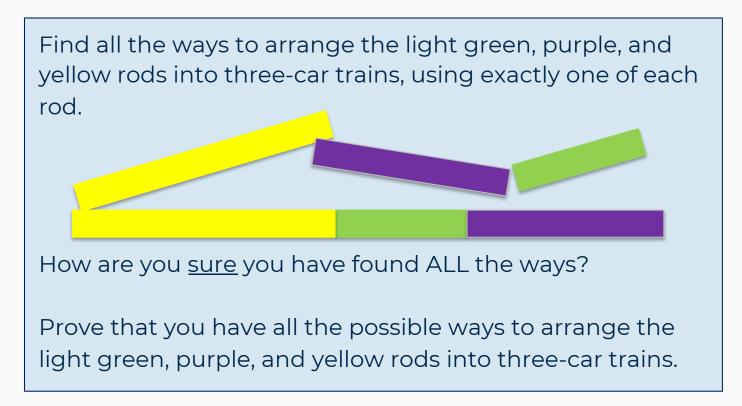
What is likely to happen next?

This is a lens on "normal" practice.

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### Miah and her classmates





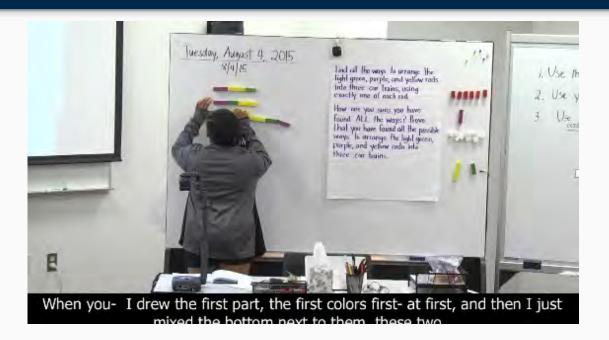


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Miah presents her proof.



### **VIDEO:** Miah's solution



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LIKELY NEXT MOVES

RESULT

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#### LIKELY NEXT MOVES

#### RESULT

- "Great job, Miah. Miah showed us that we can arrange the rods 6 ways. Does everyone see that?"
- Miah, a Black girl, is praised for having the right answer. But she is not positioned to take up comments from her peers.

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#### LIKELY NEXT MOVES

- RESULT
- "Great job, Miah. Miah showed us that we can arrange the rods 6 ways. Does everyone see that?"
- "Very nice, Miah. Miah showed us that we can put the purple rod first two times and switch the green and the yellow rods, then put the green rod first, and switch the purple and yellow two times, and then the same, putting the yellow first and switching the other two.
- Miah, a Black girl, is praised for having the right answer. But she is not positioned to take up comments from her peers.
- Miah's answer is taken over and revoiced and extended by the teacher. Her agency is removed.

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#### LIKELY NEXT MOVES

- "Great job, Miah. Miah showed us that we can arrange the rods 6 ways. Does everyone see that?"
- "Very nice, Miah. Miah showed us that we can put the purple rod first two times and switch the green and the yellow rods, then put the green rod first, and switch the purple and yellow two times, and then the same, putting the yellow first and switching the other two.
- What Miah did was something that mathematicians figure out with a factorial-3 times 2 times 1."

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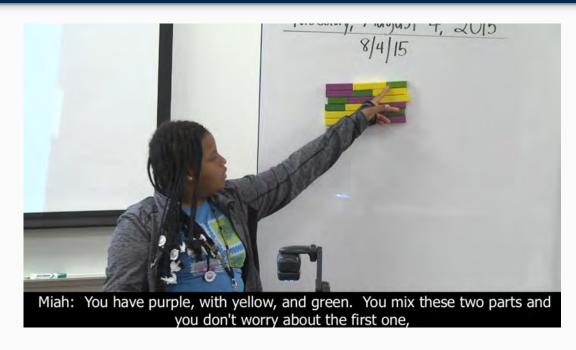
#### RESULT

- Miah, a Black girl, is praised for having the right answer. But she is not positioned to take up comments from her peers.
- Miah's answer is taken over and revoiced and extended by the teacher. Her agency is removed.
- The class is not engaged in restating and commenting on Miah's solution, so neither she nor her classmates are positioned to do collective work





### **VIDEO:** Miah explains her solution



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## How does this disrupt normalized practice?

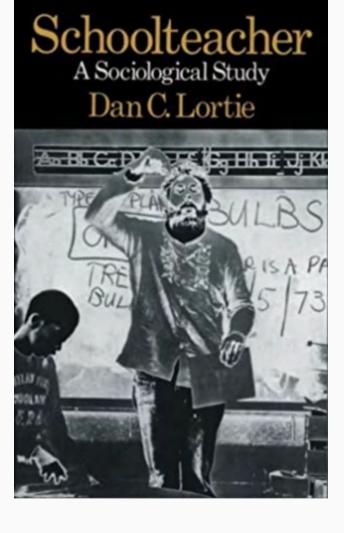
- Miah is positioned as the author of the explanation and the class as her peers to consider her solution.
- Miah is supported to hold the floor.
- Miah and her classmates are trusted to engage in the work.







# 4. What is the imperative for teacher preparation?



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The power of the "apprenticeship of observation." ٦.

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- The power of the "apprenticeship of observation." ٦.
- 2. Teaching attracts people who liked being in school.

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- The power of the "apprenticeship of observation."
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# Teaching is a conservative occupation.

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# What does this explain about the normalized continuities of racial injustice?

- Teacher candidates have been steeped in the curriculum of white supremacy through their apprenticeship of observation.
- Norms of practice are taken for granted. These norms contribute to the persistence of racial injustice.

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Supporting teacher candidates' explicit interrogation of their identities and 1. experiences with the curriculum of white supremacy

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- Supporting teacher candidates' explicit interrogation of their identities and 1. experiences with the curriculum of white supremacy
- Making visible the curriculum of white supremacy, normalized practice, 2. continuity, and harm

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- Supporting teacher candidates' explicit interrogation of their identities and 1. experiences with the curriculum of white supremacy
- 2. Making visible the curriculum of white supremacy, normalized practice, continuity, and harm
- 3. Showing discretionary spaces and developing repertoires of practice that are not reproductive of these continuities

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- Supporting teacher candidates' explicit interrogation of their identities and 1. experiences with the curriculum of white supremacy
- 2. Making visible the curriculum of white supremacy, normalized practice, continuity, and harm
- 3. Showing discretionary spaces and developing repertoires of practice that are not reproductive of these continuities

#### These can be developed separately and also intertwined.

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# **One example:** Practice with scenarios

#### CLASSROOM SCENARIOS

A. You are leading a class discussion of a video in your sixth grade class. You want to distribute turns to all of your students

- equally and so you are using "equity sticks" to pull names at random. You ask the class to share their ideas about whether the film is biased or fair. When you pull the name of Roberto, a Latino boy in your class, he says, "pass," and declines to
- B. Your class is coming in in the morning. You hear noise in the hallway. When you go out into the hall, you see two of your fifth grade students — Lisa, a white girl and Aliyah, a Black girl — tugging on a scarf. Lisa is crying. Aliyah pulls the scarf away
- C. You are reading aloud from the most recent Harry Potter book. Your second grade students are sitting on the rug. A few
- times you remind them not to touch one another or lie down. Kendall, one of Black boys, keeps moving from one spot to the other on the carpet. After three reminders, you tell him he should go back to his seat. He gets up and stomps back to his
- desk and lifts up his desktop and takes out a piece of paper and some markers, D. Adele, a white girl in your class, comes to school wearing short shorts. This is against the dress code. When you remind her that this is against the rules, she starts to get very teary. She says that her mother told her it would be okay because they are
- not really very short and she was going to a birthday party after school and they are going swimming. E. During independent journal time, Antonio, one of your Latino boys, has his head down on his desk and his hood up over his head. Melissa, the white girl sitting next to him, whispers loudly, "You're supposed to be writing." Antonio pushes her hand
- away. Melissa raises her hand for your attention. "He's not writing," she tells you. F. During your sixth period class, your principal enters your class and interrupts the discussion to tell you that two of your Black
  - girls were fighting at lunch and they need to come with him. One of them, Delia, is in the middle of explaining her thinking about one of the cases the class is discussing today. Other students go "Doooh, Delia, you are in trouble now!" Lynette, the
  - other girl whom he named, closes her book loudly and throws her pen down on her desk.

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#### STRUCTURED WORK IN THREE PARTS

- 1. What are your reactions? How does the scenario make you feel? How does that relate to your identities and experiences?
- 2. What patterns of normalized practice and the curriculum of white supremacy does it make visible or imply?
- 3. What are possible responses or actions that avert or disrupt patterns of harm?





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### 



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#### Scenario 1

Adele, a white girl in your class, comes to school wearing short shorts. This is against the dress code. When vou remind her that this is against the rules, she starts to get very teary. She says that her mother told her it would be okay because they are not really very short and she was going to a birthday party after school and they are going swimming.

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### **EDUCATION**



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#### Scenario 2

During your sixth period class, your principal enters your class and interrupts the discussion to tell you that two of your Black girls were fighting at lunch and they need to come with him. One of them, Delia, is in the middle of explaining her thinking about one of the cases the class is discussing today. Other students go "Ooooh, Delia, you are in trouble now!" Lynette, the other girl whom he named, closes her book loudly and throws her pen down on her desk.

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## ... and many, many other designs for work in and on practice to disrupt patterns of normalized racial injustice

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## ... and many, many other designs for work in and on practice to disrupt patterns of normalized racial injustice



# What does this have to do with anti-fragility?

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# What is fragility? What is anti-fragility?

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# What is fragility? What is anti-fragility?

#### Fragility

- Does not adapt to sudden changes
- Is threatened when knowledge, skill, authority is questioned
- Avoids conflict
- Has a rigid worldview
- Experiences "burnout" regularly

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# What is fragility? What is *anti-fragility*?

#### Fragility

- Does not adapt to sudden changes
- Is threatened when knowledge, skill, authority is questioned
- Avoids conflict
- Has a rigid worldview
- Experiences "burnout" regularly

### **Anti-fragility**

- Thrives in **un**certain situations
- Welcomes dialogue with people with different backgrounds, identities, experiences
- Seeks to expand worldview through authentic relationships
- Honors the full humanity of self and others

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# Wellness and self-care are crucial for antifragile practice.

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# Wellness and self-care are crucial for antifragile practice.

**TeachingWorks** 

In order to teach and care for others-to work to disrupt normalized practice—teachers need routines and habits that center their own selfcare and wellness.

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#### TeachingWorks

# Wellness and self-care are crucial for antifragile practice.

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In order to teach and care for others—to work to disrupt normalized practice—teachers need routines and habits that center their own selfcare and wellness.

Examples:

- Setting healthy boundaries
- Getting sufficient sleep •
- Engaging in activities that bring joy •
- Finding a community of peers that celebrate your • full expression of self



# Wellness and self-care are crucial for antifragile practice.

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In order to teach and care for others—to work to disrupt normalized practice—teachers need routines and habits that center their own selfcare and wellness.

Examples:

- Setting healthy boundaries
- Getting sufficient sleep
- Engaging in activities that bring joy
- Finding a community of peers that celebrate your full expression of self

Teacher education should help novice teachers develop these dispositions and habits as part of their professional practice.





### Looking back across this session

# Map of **Tonight's Talk**



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#### 

- 1. How is teaching powerful?
- 2. What are "continuities of racial injustice"?
- 3. What does it mean to talk about "normalized" practice?
- 4. What is the imperative for teacher preparation?
- 5. What does any of this have to do with "antifragility"?

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**Teacher education cannot** change the world by itself.

But we sit at a crucial place in the system of reproducing or disrupting the continuity of racism and white supremacy in this country.

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**Teacher education cannot** change the world by itself.

But we sit at a crucial place in the system of reproducing or disrupting the continuity of racism and white supremacy in this country.

This is our opportunity.

It is also our imperative.

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# Upcoming In-Person TeachingWorks Events

Laboratory Methods Courses (May 2–13, Ann Arbor, MI) : TeachingWorks instructors will demonstrate methods course instruction aimed at developing curriculum literacy

Introduction to Practice-Based Teacher Education Workshop (May 18–19, Houston, TX): Participants are introduced to the basics of practice-based teacher education, with multiple opportunities to practice.

Spring Coaching Institute (May 20–21, Houston, TX): Teacher educators will be able to practice leading rehearsals and coaching teacher candidates to enact the highleverage practices called for in several examples of open-source materials

Elementary Mathematics Laboratory (July 25-29, Ann Arbor, MI): Instructors will make visible the work of delivering equitable mathematics instruction using elementary math curriculum materials



# Upcoming Virtual TeachingWorks Opportunities

Certificate Sequence in Practice-Based Teacher Education (application deadline: April 1) Participants learn to develop practice-based methods courses aimed in part at developing teacher candidates' curriculum literacy.

#### Canvas courses

- Introduction to Practice-Based Teacher Education (asynchronous) •
- High-Leverage Practice Primers (asynchronous) •
- Using Rehearsal-Based Pedagogies in Teacher Preparation (begins March 4) •
- Building Novice Teachers' Content Knowledge for Teaching English Language • Arts (various start-dates)





# Thank you!

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Slides will be available on my website https://deborahloewenbergball.com/

> ("Google" Deborah Ball) @deborah\_ball

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Image on slide 9: Photo from "Protest erupts in Phoenix after viral video shows police fatally shooting man in parked car," by Allyson Chiu, The Washington Post Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/07/06/phoenix-protest-policeshooting/



Image on slide 9: Graphic from "Why don't black and white Americans live together?," by Rajini Vaidyanathan, BBC News Retrieved from https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-35255835



Image on slide 9: Graphic from "Housing Segregation In Everything" by Code Switch, National Public Radio. Retrieved from https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2018/04/11/601494521/video-housingsegregation-in-everything

### Image: Market State TeachingWorks UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN





Image on slide 9: Graphic from "The Criminal Justice Reform Plans of 2020: And Why Kamala Harris' is the Best," by Mia Brett, Medium Retrieved https://medium.com/@miabrett/the-criminal-justice-reform-plans-of-2020-andwhy-kamala-harris-is-the-best-e764db85c728



Image on slide 9: Graphic from "Lack of health insurance and U.S. mortality," PNHP Retrieved from https://pnhp.org/news/lack-of-health-insurance-and-u-s-mortality/



Image on slide 9: Graphic from "Who got the right to vote when? A history of voting rights in America," Al Jazeera Retrieved from https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2016/us-elections-2016-who-canvote/index.html







Image on slides 10–16: Photo from "Why You Need an Experienced Real Estate Agent" by Elizabeth Weintraub, the balance. Retrieved from <u>https://www.thebalance.com/experienced-real-estate-agents-1798883</u>



Image on slides 11–16: "Police." by Flickr user G20 Voice Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/



Image on slides 12–16: Photo from "Black doctors earn less than white peers, study reveals" by Stacy M. Brown, The Philadelphia Tribune. Retrieved from <u>https://www.phillytrib.com/lifestyle/health/black-doctors-earn-less-than-whitepeers-study-reveals/article\_2d359910-85c8-524b-b6d2-15d1705ad762.html</u>

 Image: Second state
 TeachingWorks

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 Image: Second state



Image on slides 13–16: Photo from "Want to be a poll worker? Philly says it's responding to 'unprecedented' number of applicants" by Ximena Conde, WHYY Retrieved from https://whyy.org/articles/want-to-be-a-poll-worker-philly-says-its-respondingto-unprecedented-number-of-applicants/



Image on slides 14–16: Photo from "Trump Rioters Storm U.S. Capitol (photos)," Variety Retrieved from https://variety.com/gallery/trump-rioters-storm-us-capitol-photos/congresselectoral-college-8/



Image on slides 15–16: Photo from "20 Classroom Interventions for Children with Anxiety Disorders" by Jerry Kennard, Ph.D., HealthCentral. Retrieved from https://www.healthcentral.com/article/20-classroom-interventions-forchildren-with-anxiety-disorders



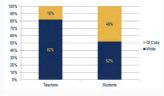


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Image on slide 16: Photo from "10 Ways Well-Meaning White Teachers Bring Racism Into Our Schools" by Jamie Utt, everyday feminism. Retrieved from https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/08/10-ways-well-meaning-white-teachersbring-racism-into-our-schools/

**DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDE IN THE U.S.:** K-12 TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



Data on slides 17–18: Center for American Progress. (2014). Teacher diversity revisited: A new state-by-state analysis. Washington, DC: Boser. Retrieved from https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/TeacherDiversity.pdf



Image on slide 19: Photo from "19th Amendment Centennial Celebration." Retrieved from https://www.ctbar.org/events-education/19th-amendment-centennialscavenger-hunt







Image on slide 19: Photo from "When Did African Americans Actually Get the Right to Vote?," by Sarah Pruit, History.com. Retrieved from https://www.history.com/news/african-american-voting-right-15thamendment



Image on slide 19: Image from "First Thanksgiving Meal," History.com. Retrieved from https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/first-thanksgiving-meal



Image on slide 19: Image from "Slavery: Good Times," by Janet S., Racespective. Retrieved from https://racespective.com/2015/07/06/54/







Image on slide 19:

Photo from "The Scourged Back: How Runaway Slave and Soldier Private Gordon Changed History" by Frank H. Goodyear, III, America's Black Holocaust Museum. Retrieved from https://abhmuseum.org/the-scourged-back-how-runaway-slave-and-soldierprivate-gordon-changed-history/



Image on slide 23:

Photo from "Cause for Alarm: Addressing North Carolina Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Rates," by Ebonyse Mead, MA, MS, CFLE and Kara Lehnhardt, MBA Retrieved from https://www.smartstart.org/cause-for-alarm-addressing-north-carolina-earlychildhood-suspension-and-expulsion-rates/



Image on slide 23: Image from "Rug Rules. Carpet Time," by elaulaconbotas Retrieved from https://elaulaconbotas.wordpress.com/2015/12/21/rug-rules-carpet-time/

### Image: Second system TeachingWorks UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN

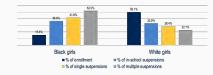




Image on slide 23: Photo from "Great classrooms have 6 things in common: What to look for" by Nancy Kaffer, Detroit Free Press. Retrieved from https://www.freep.com/story/opinion/columnists/nancykaffer/2019/09/03/signs-successful-classroom/2162878001/



Image on slide 24: Photo from "When can my school discipline me? What is corporal punishment," by Judge Tom, AskTheJudge.info Retrieved from http://askthejudge.info/what-is-corporal-punishment/



Data on 25: Epstein, R., Blake, J., & González, T. (2017). Girlhood interrupted: The erasure of Black girls' childhood. Washington, DC: Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality.

## Image: Market State TeachingWorks UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY of MICHIGAN



Add, Subtract and Multiply (A) 5 12 7 4 1 4 9 9 3 11 +0 -4 +0 +9 +0 -3 -7 -0 -3 -9 
 4
 7
 9
 5
 5
 2
 3
 2
 12
 9

 -9
 x1
 x3
 -5
 x3
 +0
 +1
 x6
 .7
 .7
 3 2 8 6 8 2 6 4 6 0 x8 -5 -13 x8 x7 x1 x4 x6 x7 -3 9 3 2 4 2 7 7 4 7 8 x5 +0 +2 x8 x6 x6 -2 x1 x5 -8 5 0 0 5 3 10 7 +3 +3 +1 +6 +1 +5 -1 +6 -2 +4 11 6 12 9 11 5 9 1 4 7 .5 .5 .5 .1 .9 40 40 49 46 49 5 8 10 5 9 10 1 9 8 12 -1 +7 -6 +7 +4 -1 +1 +1 -1 -8

Image on slide 26: "The Adding, Subtracting and Multiplying with Facts From 0 to 9 (A) Math Worksheet Page 1" Retrieved from https://www.mathdrills.com/multiop/mixed\_operations\_asm\_vertical\_100\_0009\_0009\_001.php



Image on slide 36: Photo from "4 Legendary Approaches to Teaching That Impact All of Us. A Tribute to Dan Lortie," by Andy Hargreaves, Education Week. Retrieved from https://www.edweek.org/education/opinion-4-legendary-approaches-toteaching-that-impact-all-of-us-a-tribute-to-dan-lortie/2020/05



