

This class figures heavily into an ongoing personal process of developing a language and a historical/political context for understanding my high school experience. There are so many things that I know now that makes my experience clearer, but what I've lost is the immediacy of the situation. There is so much more we could all learn and re-learn by having these conversations, whether through workshops, out-of-school programs, public school curricula, or otherwise with students who history is repeating itself upon every day.

It has been so enlightening to analyze our education system across the timeline from Plantation slave society to the current time of neoliberalism and neo-conservatism. Just being able to see how little the system has changed, but these oppressive tactics have just transformed. People like to think of racism in terms of covert and overt racism. But, what's happening in our schools isn't covert. Its blatantly racist schools isn't covert. It's blatantly racist. It's all just legal in the terms of our state policies. It makes me wonder what will make the shift happen in the system. What can we do as leaders and activist within our own communities to break the system open and create real change!

The more time I spend in the South, the more I learn that the history of racism in the region has more to do with caste systems I've read about than with the type of structural racism I'm familiar with in places I've lived. Education is a central part of that. The power structure goes to such lengths historically and presently, to maintain distinct classes of people, that any step towards liberation comes with a corresponding moving of the goalposts.

Freedom schools are exiting. Our contemporary freedom schools can share more histories and utilize technologies that were unavailable in the 60s and will be able to endure more easily in a world in which people more readily condemn individual racist violence like bombing a church hosting a freedom school.

To make that connection between plantation slavery system and the educational system for black and brown and marginalized youth today was deep. That schools today are training students to fit into a corporate, to be puppets of that structure, and if students resist, to mark them as "disposable" via prison system, or death. I reflect on how interlocking systems of oppression have not changed their underlying currents but merely changed their shape. I'm meditating on resistance and the creation of a third space, or new political sites of resistance for youth on the margins. I'm thinking of the power of youth to be fiercely utopian about our visions for a feminist future harnessing that power into liberatory educational spaces. I'm ready to build!

Plantation education is deeply rooted in our school systems but most don't see it. A number of people are still educated by the same racist thought process that oppressed them so they don't question it. Black dominated schools will never get the funding it needs based on test scores even though they have not been properly prepared. We have to restructure the text books and the way money is distributed.

I think it's hard to discuss education in a manner that highlights its ineffectiveness. For many (myself included) education was a way out of home and the role of the market but it was possible for me because of so many other factors. For many black and or inner-city student's, education's only use is to become a laborer, to break you so that can be blamed on your own faults. While I don't believe in the private or charter, APS is not useful and there needs to be something greater outside of it done!. Students deserve better and can teach themselves more meaningful material. It is very real that educational change holds hands w/military and economic change, and that oppressive power needs to be challenged by all people.