

Equity

The Root of Montessori



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Equity vs. Equality

Equality only works if we all happened to need the same thing and actually started from the same place.



Key Child #1: Camila



Key Child #2: Delonte



Two Minute Turn & Talk: Your Key Child

Take turns telling your partner about a child who isn't succeeding:

- Who are they?
- What are their strengths?
- What are their barriers to success?



Lewis Terman, American Psychological Association



“Black and other ethnic minority children are uneducable beyond the nearest rudiments of training. No amount of school instruction will ever make them capable citizens. Their dullness seems to be racial.”

“Children of this group should be segregated into special classes and given instruction which is concrete and practical. They cannot master abstraction, but they can make efficient workers.”

“There is no possibility at present of convincing society that they should not be allowed to reproduce, although from a eugenic point of view they constitute a grave problem because of their prolific breeding.”

Lewis Terman (Professor of Education, Leland Stanford Junior University), *The Measurement of Intelligence* (1916), pp. 91-92

Decolonizing Education

"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed."

-Steve Biko



**Critically Assess:
How have our minds been affected
by institutionalized bias?**

Identity Threat

vs.

Identity Validation

Decolonizing Education

The problem of bias is multifaceted.

Content

- What decisions are made and who is making them regarding what should be included in a test?
- Are the perspectives/experiences of diverse students included? Who makes sure this happens?



Decolonizing Education

The problem of bias is multifaceted.

Standardization

- **Decisions made about the population for whom the test is appropriate.**



Decolonizing Education

The problem of bias is multifaceted.

administration

- Is the person familiar with the patterns of language, behavior, and customs of students being examined?



Decolonizing Education

The problem of bias is multifaceted.

validation

- **Determining whether or not the tests accomplish what they were designed to accomplish.**



How Do We Think About Our Students?

Achievement Gap vs. Education Debt

"... a focus on the gap is misplaced. Instead, we need to look at the "education debt" that has accumulated over time. This debt comprises historical, economic, sociopolitical, and moral components."

-Gloria Ladson-Billings

The term "racial achievement gap" unfairly constructs students as "defective and lacking" and "admonishes them that they need to catch up." Ladson-Billings suggested the term "education debt," moving to a discourse that "holds us all accountable."



— What Does Academic Equity Mean?



Montessori: Education as Adaptation to the World



How Do We Achieve Academic Equity in a Montessori Environment?







Thank you!

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