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Learning Opportunities

Since I have entered high school, I find it more difficult to find interest in the topics that are frequently discussed within the classroom. Friends of mine that attend other schools generally feel the same way as I do about our current educational system. I cannot speak on behalf of the schools outside of the Portland Public School District, but I know that our teachers fail to cover the history of all cultural backgrounds. We are constantly lectured about American History throughout all quarters of the school year. What about Black History or the history of China? We are given very little information on these topics, which are very important to me, with me being an African-American young woman.

Being academically successful requires focus, engagement, and effort. I would consider myself successful in this aspect, but just because I get the job done doesn't mean that I am satisfied with the knowledge that I am obtaining each year. I would prefer to learn more about my ancestors before slavery and the first-time inventors of things that we see everyday. We do learn about Black history, but this topic is only discussed for about a week of February simply because it is Black History Month. I am eager to learn more about my ancestors, so when this time comes I am much more motivated to listen and personally interact during classroom/group discussions. Though this time of the year is exciting for me, it is disappointing at the same time because I hope to learn about something new, but of course it's all about slavery and a few other things that I learned about while I was in elementary school.

I am personally offended by the educational system that we are provided with. Black history education is rarely taught in my school district and I find it hard to believe that there are many others that are any different. I am often embarrassed by my lack of knowledge about

Black History. If I do learn something new about it, it is from my family. Since I cannot obtain this information in my classroom, I must rely on other resources. This is good preparation for college, but I would prefer to learn this alongside my peers so they are informed just as much as I am about my culture and the truth about where we came from; and they will never know until someone with authority hears my cry and makes a change.