

To whom it may concern:

My name is Brooklyn Collins a senior at David Douglas. I am currently enrolled in English 4 Black Studies.

I am writing this letter to express the importance of why “ethnic studies” should be included in curriculum throughout high schools in Oregon. First and foremost “ethnic studies” and ethnic history is still American history and pertinent to the world now and the students in the class. Students are missing out on valuable and very interesting stories, facts, and lessons. I am currently a semester into Black studies and I have learned and gained so much. It has introduced me to things I’ve never known about, it keeps me thinking, and it has influenced the way I view things.

In this class I’ve learned about people I would’ve never learned about in any other class in school. I’ve been taught about events that most people don’t know about. For example the Tulsa Massacre that numerous people even in the city of Tulsa don’t know about. It’s a tragic story but it holds a lot of significance and helps explain the way wealth, black business, and stolen opportunities work.

I truly believe that ethnic studies classes should be available and taught throughout Oregon high schools. They are an amazing chance for students to learn about people who look like them and to learn about this history and stories that get swept under the rug. This class is a thinker and gets you engaged with then and how it plays into now.

Sincerely,

Brooklyn Collins