

Dear Ms. Roberts,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am enrolled in your ENC 1101 online course. I wanted to reach out because as this course has been going on I have begun to feel more uncomfortable with the political nature of it. We first started with an essay that was portraying picture day combs as a racist practice in schools. I tried to appreciate the essay from the perspective of the author and how he experienced it regardless if picture day combs are actually a racist symbol or not. However, as I continue in the class and am now being presented with the numerous Inquizitive activities, I am finding the number of articles that take one extreme perspective on the issue of racism - namely the stance and ideology of the Black Lives Matter movement, is making me to feel more and more uncomfortable with the ideological stance this course is taking. The sheer number of articles representing this one perspective on an issue that is hotly debated in current politics is contributing to a very biased class environment. I, personally, do not like to discuss politics and would rather not have to comment on political issues in a composition class. I understand that writing is a form of expression and thought about tough topics, but the lack of variety and perspectives being discussed makes it even more challenging. The articles in respect to this issue are also very emotionally difficult to read as they emphasize police brutality and murders of children that are horrible incidents which I prefer not to read about often.

Personally, I would just rather have prompts that weren't political in nature at all. But if political topics are necessary, I would very much like to request that a more balanced approach to these issues be presented. I realize that you have not claimed these perspectives as your own personal view and you might not have even chosen the curriculum, but by the fact that these are the essays that are selected for us to read already biases the classroom dynamic. This is compounded by the fact that not all questions are free-response but rather multiple choice, limiting the opportunity for debate or open discussion for alternative perspectives to be brought into the debate. This highlights a selection bias in the curriculum design and course materials which presents a very unbalanced perspective on the given issues. I believe that this non-neutral set of materials and curricular approach is in violation of the House Bill 7- Individual Freedoms Act.

I have very much enjoyed the structure of this class and your responsiveness to student inquiries/concerns. You are a great teacher and I really enjoy how well you communicate with your students to make sure they all receive the best experience possible. I was nervous to bring this issue up to you as I wouldn't want it to affect my standing in the class, but after the last series of activities on Inquizitive that include articles suggesting very biased perspectives, I felt like I needed to make my voice heard. I am disappointed that other viewpoints aren't shared in a similar fashion as this one.

I appreciate your time and attention and would be happy to meet you in office hours to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the sender's name and signature.