

SUMMER ACTION PROJECT

**CRITICAL RACE THEORY
& BLACK GIRL
CRIMINALIZATION**

JULY 27, 2020

If you could have a
superpower what would
it be?



GO AROUND

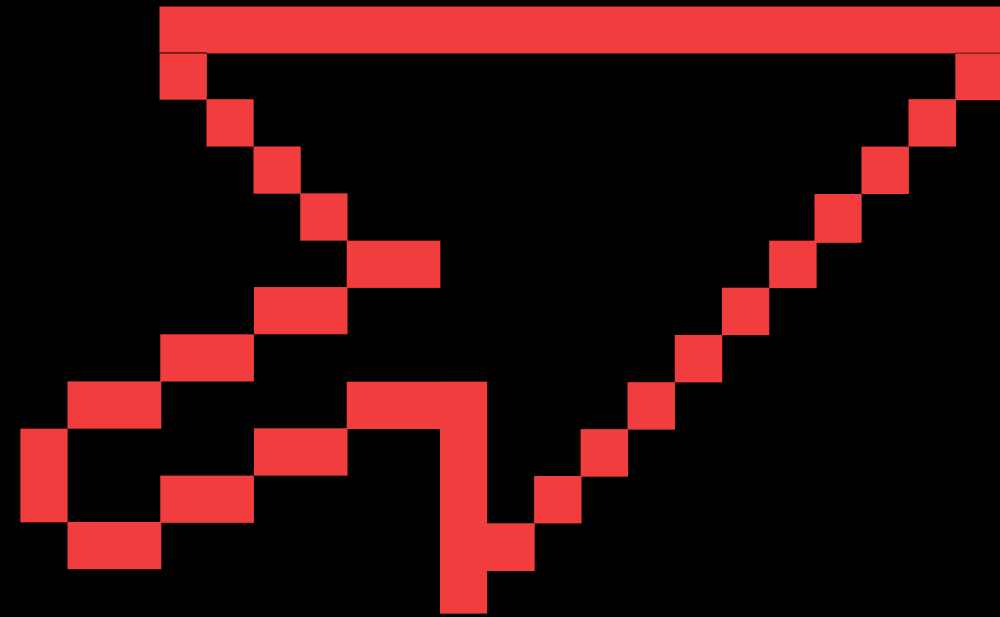


AGENDA

Go Around
Objectives
Critical Race Theory
#FreeGrace
Creative Activity
Share Out
Closing

OBJECTIVE

Nashers will apply the theories of critical race theory to better understand how systems of oppression have shaped the conditions of their lives



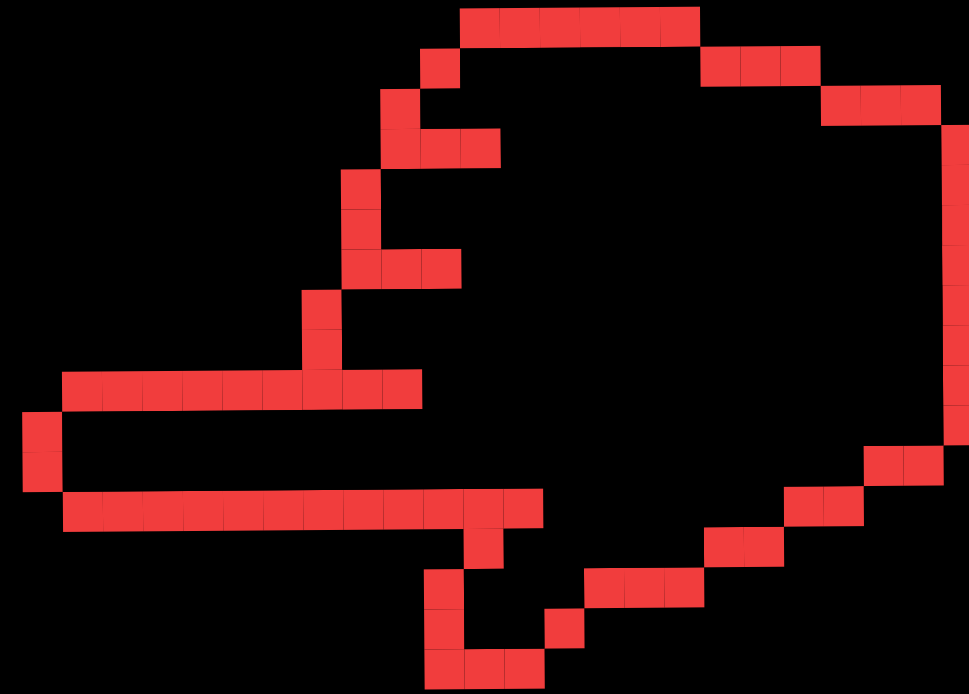
WHAT IS CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

The view that the law and other legal institutions are inherently racist and race itself, instead of being biologically grounded and natural, is a socially constructed concept that is used by white people to further their economic and political interests at the expense of people of color

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL RACISM IN US HISTORY

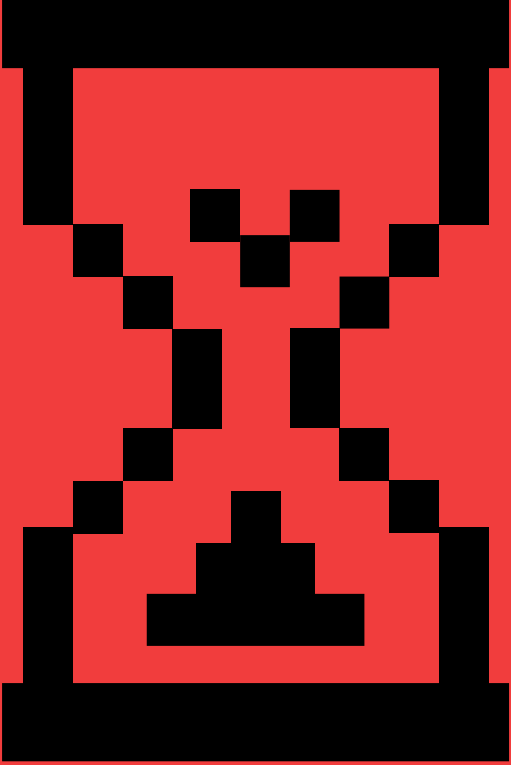
1619

Chattel slavery is a legal form of economic labor growth in the US cotton and tobacco industry.



1792

Freed Blacks have their voting rights revoked.



1970'S TO PRESENT

War on Drugs becomes a national campaign that targets Black, Hispanic and impoverished communities

1788

Jim Crow as legalized segregation

1994

Bill Clinton passes Three Strikes law which significantly increases US mass incarceration rate.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT BLACK GIRLS?

ADULTIFICATION BIAS

A form of racial prejudice where children of "minority groups," such as African American girls, are treated as being more mature than they actually are by a reasonable social standard of development.

SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A report by US News revealed that black girls are twice as likely to be suspended from school due to racist and sexist stereotypes that school officials and educators hold.

EUROCENTRIC BEAUTY STANDARDS

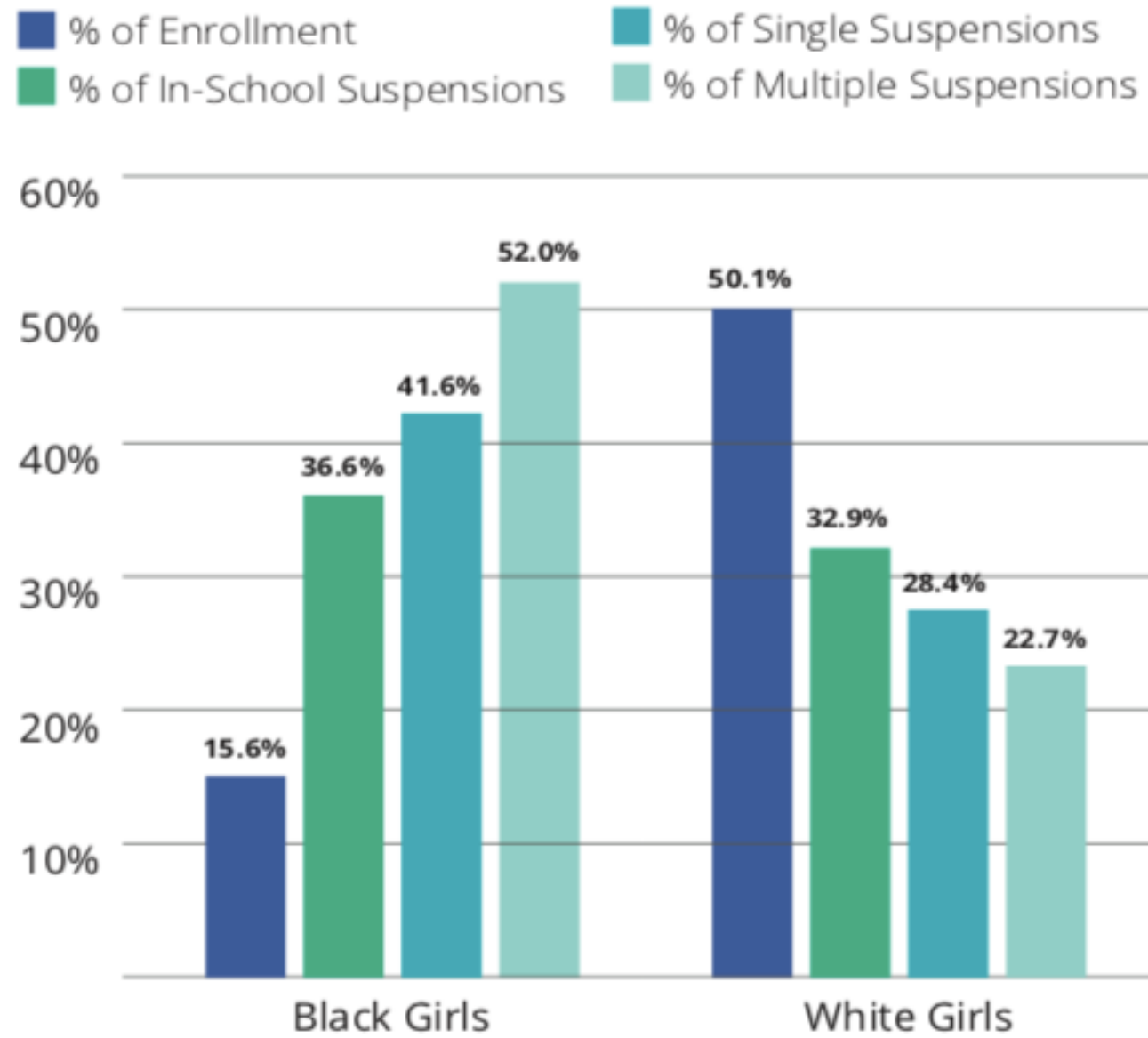
Black girls receive disproportionate infraction referrals for "disruptive behavior," dress code violations, disobedience, and aggressive behaviors that aren't aligned with white standards of femininity

SOCIETY'S PERCEPTION

Black girls are viewed as less innocent and more adult-like. A survey perceived black girls as needing less nurturing, less protection, less support, less comfort, more independence, are knowledgeable about adult topics, and know more about sex.

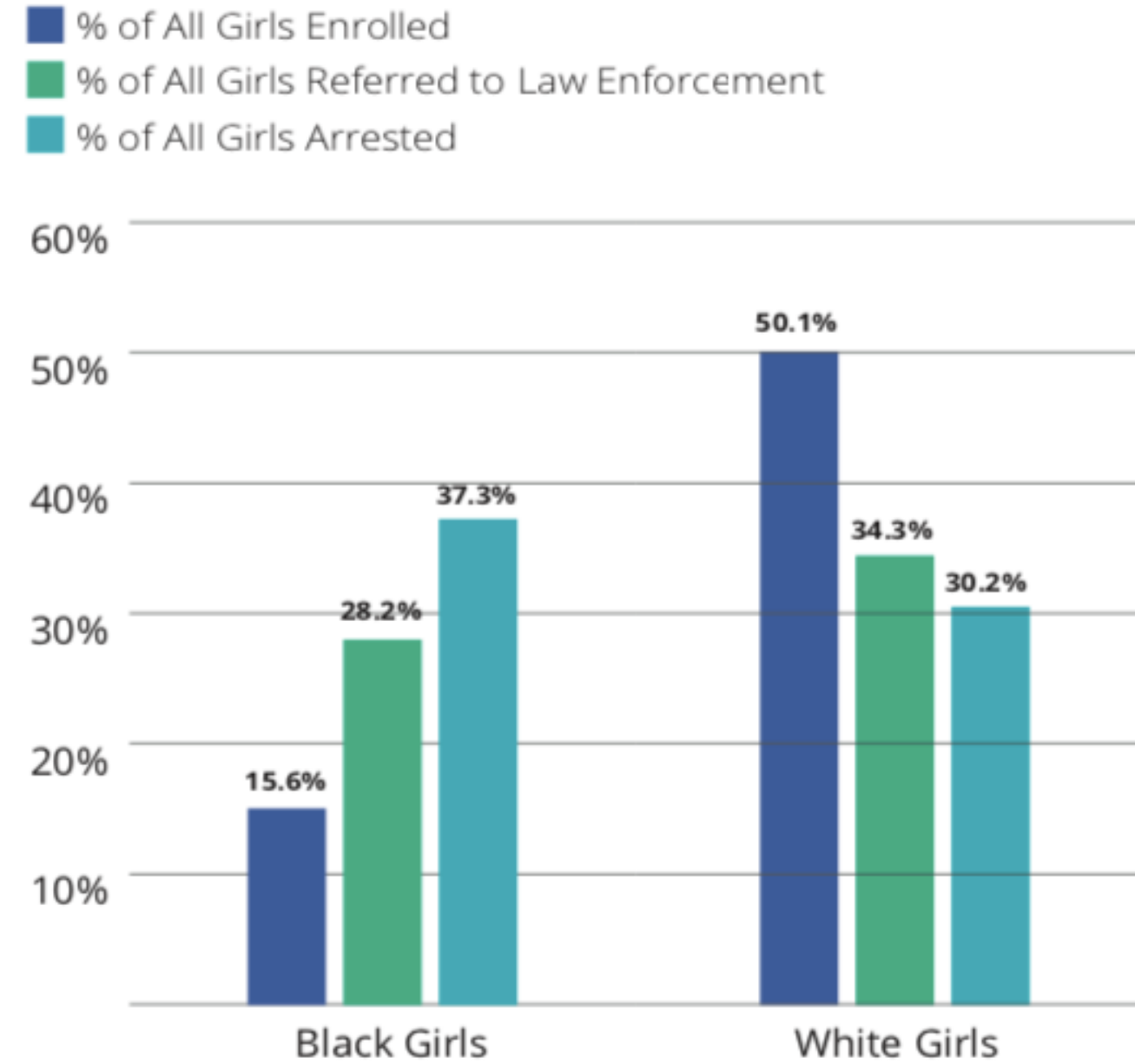
Which leads to more aggressive and punitive consequences.

Rates of Suspensions for Girls in K-12 in the 2013-2014 School Year by Race



Source: NAT'L WOMEN'S LAW CTR., STOPPING SCHOOL PUSHOUT FOR GIRLS OF COLOR 15 fig.6 (2017).

Percentage of Girls Referred to Law Enforcement or Arrested at School in the 2013-14 School Year by Race



Source: NAT'L WOMEN'S LAW CTR., STOPPING SCHOOL PUSHOUT FOR GIRLS OF COLOR 13 fig.5 (2017).



CYNTOIA BROWN

Arrested at 15 years old and tried as an adult for murder and robbery after shooting and escaping her rapist who held her captive for months. Was released at the age of 31.



LATASHA HARLINS

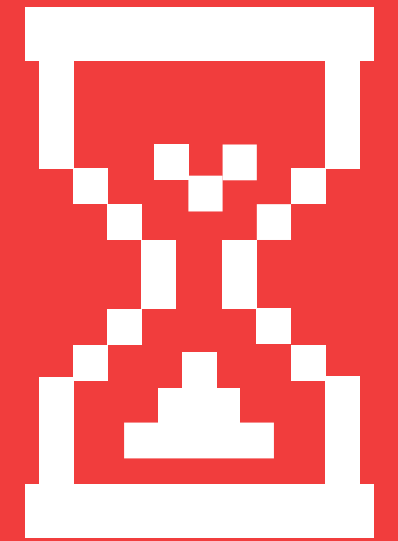
15 years old shot in the back of the head in a convenient store by Korean owner who thought she was stealing. Video footage showed Harlins paying for her drink. Korean woman only sentenced to probation and community service.

GRACE

Currently serving time in a juvenile facility for "violating her parole" by not doing her class assignments virtually even though she has a documented IEP and needs learning support

**WHAT ARE SOME
THOUGHTS THAT COME
UP FOR YOU?**

Take 10 minutes to
get some sunlight,
water, snack,
breathe, stretch...



BREAK TIME

#Free Grace

@GoSociafy

Grace, a Black high school student, is being held in a juvenile detention center in the midst of a global pandemic for not turning in her homework.

GRACE HAS SPENT 60 DAYS THERE.

"Stay strong."

- Grace to her mom

"You stay strong, too. I love you."

- Grace's mom

@GoSociafy

Grace's Story

Grace is a 15 year old high school student in Oakland County, Michigan. She attends Grove High School and has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Grace is currently being held in a juvenile detention center ***for not completing her homework.***

In Grace's case, Judge Mary Ellen Brennan used ***"zero tolerance."***

Grace has been held in a facility away from her mom for over 60 days ***amidst a global pandemic.***

Read the whole story at ProPublica.org

***Swipe to see how you can help
#FreeGrace***



Photo credit: Lisa Larson-Walker | ProPublica

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Oakland County, Michigan

42%

OF THE KIDS IN JUVENILE DETENTION ARE BLACK.

15%

OF THE COUNTY'S YOUTH IS BLACK.

***Institutional racism has no desire
to see Black youth succeed.***

@GoSociafy

In Michigan,

BLACK YOUTH ARE
INCARCERATED OVER

4x

AS OFTEN AS WHITE
YOUTH.

Source: The Sentencing Project

@GoSociafy

***Sign these
petitions***

(LINKS IN BIO)

Change.org:

<https://bit.ly/changeforgrace>

Advancement Project:

<https://bit.ly/advancementforgrace>

GoSociafy:

<https://bit.ly/FreeGraceNow>

#FreeGrace

@GoSociafy

CALL JUDGE MARY ELLEN BRENNAN

(248)-858-0355
Tues and Thurs
8:30- 4:30pm

(248) 858-3183
Mon, Wed, Fri
8:30- 4:30pm

"I am calling to demand that 15 year old, Grace, be released from Juvenile detention immediately! **She should never have been incarcerated.** Failure to complete schoolwork does not make a child a 'threat to the community.' You must dismiss her case and return her to her mother. She should receive the support and resources she actually needs from home."

OR EMAIL HER CLERKS:
SLATONK@OAKGOV.COM
CHISMJACOBSR@OAKGOV.COM

CONTACT THE AG & PROSECUTOR

Attorney General Dana Nessel

Phone: 517-335-7622
Fax: 517-335-7644
Email: miag@michigan.gov

Prosecutor Jessica R. Cooper

248 858 0656
info@oaklandprosecutor.org

"I am writing to demand that 15 year old, Grace, must be released from Juvenile detention immediately! She should never have been incarcerated. Failure to complete schoolwork does not make a child a "threat to the community." You must dismiss her case and return her to her mother. She should receive the support and resources she actually needs from home.

I also demand that you fire caseworker Rachel Giroux for failing to support a child in need and Judge Mary Ellen Brennan for this racist decision."



CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Write an encouraging letter of support to Grace. Tell her about yourself. Talk to her about your understanding of her situation and how it's wrong. Give her something to look forward to.