

**From:** [Patricia Coggins](#)  
**To:** [Andrea Relator](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Insensitive Classroom Assignment  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 5:00:34 PM

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FYI

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**From:** Tracy Jackson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 4:44 PM  
**To:** Patricia Coggins <[Patricia.Coggins@lcps.org](mailto:Patricia.Coggins@lcps.org)>  
**Cc:** Carrie Simms <[Carrie.Simms@lcps.org](mailto:Carrie.Simms@lcps.org)>; Neil Slevin <[Neil.Slevin@lcps.org](mailto:Neil.Slevin@lcps.org)>; James Dallas <[James.Dallas@lcps.org](mailto:James.Dallas@lcps.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Insensitive Classroom Assignment

Hi Patti,

Carrie called and spoke to me. I also contacted the parent back. I think what is missing in the letter is that this assignment is not a presentation. The parent felt better after I spoke to her and she also processed it with her son. Good to know that Pastor Michelle is aware. She is highly respected in the African American community.

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**From:** Patricia Coggins  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 4:42 PM  
**To:** Tracy Jackson <[Tracy.Jackson@lcps.org](mailto:Tracy.Jackson@lcps.org)>  
**Cc:** Carrie Simms <[Carrie.Simms@lcps.org](mailto:Carrie.Simms@lcps.org)>; Neil Slevin <[Neil.Slevin@lcps.org](mailto:Neil.Slevin@lcps.org)>; James Dallas <[James.Dallas@lcps.org](mailto:James.Dallas@lcps.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: Insensitive Classroom Assignment

Tracy,

The teacher in this case is attempting to do exactly what the SSGS department wants teachers to be doing—teaching history from multiple perspectives—including that of enslaved Americans—a perspective that has been woefully neglected in the past at a disservice to our students. However, the way the activity was executed was not *how* we intended the activity be executed in the curriculum (so more clarification is obviously needed here).

Because the SSGS department has been working very hard to make our curriculum inclusive and equitable, I invited Pastor Michele Thomas who runs the Loudoun Freedom Center, is the current President of the Loudoun chapter of the NAACP and a LCPS parent, to review the curriculum with me this summer. She agreed with me that multiple perspectives, including that of enslaved Americans, were vital to the students' understanding of the history of the US. We specifically discussed the activity in question, and Pastor Thomas recommended having the WHOLE class take on one perspective at a time. In other words the whole class would look at the perspective of an enslaved American, then the whole class would look at the perspective of a woman, etc. In this way, no student is singled out, or has to speak for a whole group.

Pastor Michelle also volunteered to speak to any African American parents who had questions about our approach to tackling these sensitive, yet vital conversations and activities.

Let me know how you would like me to proceed.

Patti

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**From:** Tracy Jackson

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 2, 2019 3:19 PM

**To:** Patricia Coggins <[Patricia.Coggins@lcps.org](mailto:Patricia.Coggins@lcps.org)>

**Cc:** Carrie Simms <[Carrie.Simms@lcps.org](mailto:Carrie.Simms@lcps.org)>; Neil Slevin <[Neil.Slevin@lcps.org](mailto:Neil.Slevin@lcps.org)>; James Dallas <[James.Dallas@lcps.org](mailto:James.Dallas@lcps.org)>

**Subject:** Insensitive Classroom Assignment

**Importance:** High

Good Afternoon Patti,

I was sent this post from a very concerned African American parent. They are troubled that the teacher would give students the option to choose the role of a slave for the class assignment. Please see attachment. The letter was sent by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher.

Thank you.

Tracy L. Jackson, Ph.D., NCC, NCSC, ACS, BC-TMH  
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*For mental health emergencies, please consider visiting <https://www.lcps.org/page/1817>*

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