

During the first week of PhilWP the topics covered in the meeting have been enlightening. Everyone in the group has formed valuable opinions and reflections on their teaching practices. Validity to our practices such as inquiry, student-centered classrooms, culture, gender, self-identity and race has become the issues to reckon with. There was a common goal a cohesiveness that commanded the room. We have become invincible, enlightened, and the privileged few. I believe in the 3 Es of writing. Writing will either accomplish one of three things it will Empower, Enlighten, or Eliminate you.

On August 8, 2002, we viewed the movie "Color Of Fear." Before the movie we read the article, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Peggy McIntosh. Some of the white teachers made remarks that they were unaware of the stigmas that dehumanize the Afro-Americans on a daily basis. After the movie, I thought finally, this will be the catalyst to bring the awareness to the light. A ray of hope in a dismal situation. Hopefully, to share the trials and tribulation that we face as a people in a white dominated society. Unfortunately, what I thought to be a valuable outlet for my concerns has now taken a disturbing turn. The monologue has been stifled. Now, that some issues have become blatantly clear how will this information be translated. Will the stereotypes be reinforced or relinquished? Are you going to be help or a hindrance to children of color? Are you going to modify or intensify their self-esteem?

At the end of class some voices have now been silenced. The silence has reached 130 decibels of uncomplacent quietness. I often wonder has this sensitive subject alienated the people whose opinions I've grown to respect.

From that time on the conversations in the groups became more politically correct. Everyone was walking on egg shells scuffling around the truth so not to offend. Every statement or comment was put under a microscope for scrutable accuracy. How has this movie that was intended to bring us closer together now segregated the entire group. If we, as educators can't handle racism how do we expect our students to. Has the uneasiness touch home? If so, welcome to my world.

"White Wall/ Black Wall" is a phrase coined by others who have recognized the seating arrangement that has transpired. I desperately, feel the need for closure nothing has been resolved. The answers to my questions remain hovering overhead like an airplane waiting for clearance to land. If the doors of communication remain closed every action taken from now on will be misconstrued. Don't give in to the chains that bind, blind or block diversity. Ignorance is only the fear of not knowing.