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Does Race Matter? – Reflection

Sadly, it is difficult to find where to start with the things that “disturbed” me about these readings. I feel that I am very lucky to work in a very supportive school who supports our teachers and students and tries it’s best to give our students what they need to be successful, no matter, gender, race, or socioeconomic status. If it’s going to help one, it will help all so we implement those strategies as much as possible school wide, especially after watching Dylan Garity’s YouTube video. As a teacher who teaches both Spanish and Math, I am consistently telling my students that the United States does not have an official language so immigrants who come here are allowed to continue speaking their native tongue. I find it is one of the things that makes our country so unique. But then when I hear stories like those of Garity’s sister it saddens me that we are not honoring this expression of freedom of speech and encouraging those students to learn English but also not holding them back because they cannot perform English.

Regarding racial stereotypes, I often feel that students who fall into a stereotype, especially regarding race, end up using it as an excuse. They hear somewhere that African Americans and so they come into the class room and repeat it to the teacher. They use it as an excuse not even to try. Working in the upper peninsula of Michigan a large portion of my students are of Native American descent and they use the same excuses. Someone tells them that Native Americans are not supposed to be good at math and the next thing I know I ca not even get them to try in class because, “I’m native. I can’t do math.”

It saddens me that people have these views. I express to my students that we are all given a brain and it is our choice how to use it. Yes, our brains may all work differently but if we take the time to learn how we learn and give everyone the appropriate tools we can all do anything we want.