

#CrossThisOut

Beloved Community –

Much love for your critically-informed stance against systems of hate and oppression. Your solidarity is one that seeks to disrupt. While on the surface, #CrossThisOut may seem like a “positive” response rooted in “acceptance,” I assure you, that is not my intent. This action is not one that sits within the polite terrain of liberalism. If #CrossThisOut were such an effort, I would not have highlighted liberatory concepts such as “revolutionary love,” “radical healing,” “critical care,” or “self-determination,” which have been thoroughly examined within critical discourses. Instead, I would have chosen more liberal, mainstreamed concepts such as “tolerance,” “inclusion,” “acceptance,” “diversity,” and my (not) favorite, “equity.” If this were a liberal effort, I would not have drawn attention to complex ideas such as “white supremacy,” “toxic masculinity,” or “settler colonialism” that invite educative dialog to explore deeper understandings of these forms of systemic oppression. I would have chosen more general and depoliticized concepts like “inequality.”

As such, #CrossThisOut does not feature ideas such as “inclusion,” because my intent is to disrupt and ultimately dismantle those systems that excluded me in the first place. That is why I named specific systems of oppression. With that type of specificity, we open up the possibility to examine how particular systems of oppression function and manifest in daily life.

Now, as we stand within the spaces of #CrossThisOut as a pedagogy of disruption that critically evolves as more get involved, I want to take a step back to illuminate some of the principles that grounded my intent, while recognizing the move forward.

1. #CrossThisOut must stand in the political sphere of culture in ways that its visual nature acts as a way to not only inspire others to participate and provoke thought, but also incite critical dialog and self-reflection around complex ideas that open up a critique of systems of oppression. That is why the selection of terms are complex and specific.
2. #CrossThisOut must not only inspire action, it must encourage agency, creativity, and critical evolution. Educators, organizers, and youth/young adult advocates must be able to access the essence of #CrossThisOut,

while also critically evolving it in ways that are culturally responsive to their own contexts.

3. #CrossThisOut must invite and inspire extended teaching, learning, and organizing opportunities alongside students. We must shift the traditional teacher–student relationship towards one that recognizes teachers as students and students as teachers.
4. #CrossThisOut work must intentionally balance a process of learning and action with the healing that is necessary from experiencing trauma caused by intersecting forms of systemic oppression. Experiencing oppression over the years causes a “weathering” affect within individuals. As such, actions such as #CrossThisOut must be recognized as work that heals just as much as it provokes.

I believe #CrossThisOut is but a bridge to connect our long haul work together. You have already been doing important work within your education settings. In this moment, however, we have an opportunity to create an accessible movement together and disrupt systems of oppression in concrete ways. At some point, I will create and share a resource list that references critical scholars that ground the concepts within my version of the #CrossThisOut Quilt. Be on the look out for that, but also keep me posted in the work you are doing with it. Document and send me photos of both your process and products. It is important that we sustain a level of organizing that can allow us to continue mobilizing and evolving in necessary ways. And let us remind those who seek to preserve their privileges and systems of supremacy that we can cross things out too. Much love in solidarity,

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LOVE

REVOLUTIONARY

LOVE

REVOLUTIONARY

LOVE

HUMANIZING

LOVE

JUSTICE

SELF-

DETERMINATION

BELOVED
COMMUNITY

CRITICAL CARE

LIBERATION

**RADICAL
IMAGINATION**

CRITICAL

HOPE

RADICAL HEALING

INDIGENITY



**WHITE
SUPREMACY**

RACISM





SEXISM

~~SEXUAL
VIOLENCE~~

TOXIC

MASCULINITY





MYSOGYNY



HOMOPHOBIA

~~HETERO-
NORMATIVITY~~

~~COLONIALISM~~

~~COLONIALITY~~



XENOPHOBIA



ABELTISM



AGGETISM

~~SETTLER
COLONIALISM~~



ISLAMAPHOBIA

~~ANTI-
IMMIGRANT~~

"I have the right to be angry and to express that anger, to hold it as my motivation to fight, just as I have the right to love and to express my love for the world, to hold it as my motivation to fight. I live history as a time of possibility, not of predetermination."

- Paulo Freire in *Pedagogy of Indignation* (2004, p. 58-59)

Note:

**Being White is not
the same as White
Supremacy. Slide
through and let's
dialog on it.**