

It is my understanding that education propels society. It is such that, the more we know the more we can make informed decisions regarding all aspects of our lives. the decisions we make can also have monumental impacts on not only our own lives but the well-being and happiness of our loved ones and our community. In this way it is pivotal that we are all granted equal access to quality education.

People who graduate high school and have access to quality education, can maintain employment, create more stability for them and their families, while being more productive members of society. In addition, those who drop out of high school are more likely to be in poverty, be incarcerated as well as have a shorter lifespan. A quality education is paramount for one's life. Unfortunately, a quality education is not guaranteed for all. We do not live in a society where equitable access to education exists. How can it be so when we place people into an educational system that was neither made for them, or by them? This is particularly true when we consider poor people and people of color which occur concurrently at disparate rates. Our school system is designed in a way that funding is largely gained via property taxes. So those in wealthier communities pay more in property taxes therefore more money is given to the schools in that community. this fuels inequitable distribution of academic resources including books, technology, and experienced teachers. Because people of color are more often poor, their children are the ones who have a more difficult time accessing quality education.

We know that these inequities exist however it is our choice as to whether we let them persist. According to Bettina L love, Ella Baker “knew that her work as an educator was also tied with the fight for economic justice”. As an educator it is important for one to be an advocate both in and outside of the classroom. We can do this by working to redirect power and

resources. It is also important that as an educator we recognize that not only do inequities exist, but they effect People of color at disproportionate rates, and therefore it becomes important that we hold space for these children to not only exist as themselves but thrive. We can do this by recognizing the potential of children and not straying away from tough conversations that may include race and other systems of oppression. Education is an absolute necessity for one to thrive in today's world however the equitable access of education can be greatly improved.

#### Citation

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