Be Open!

Be a Thinker!

Be Present!

Be Engaged!
some people,
when they hear your
story,
contract.
others,
upon hearing your story,
expand.
and this is how you
know.

Nayyirah Waheed
Creating the Catalyst for Change: Why We Are Here

Why do Black girl literacies matter?

- What does it mean to be young, Black, and female in America? In public education?
- What does it mean to be teachers and educators in the reawakening of racial violence for people of Color, in particular, Black women and girls?

(Sealey-Ruiz, 2016)
I loved you at your darkest. Romans 5:8
"Specific acts in which Black girls read, write, speak, move, and create in order to affirm themselves, the(ir) world, and the multidimensionality of young Black womanhood and/or Black girlhood” (Muhammad & Haddix, 2016).
Defining Black Girl Literacies

- Storytelling
- Poetry
- Dancing
- Art/Photography
- Signifying
- Quilting

(Richardson, 2003)

Black Girl Literacies
Delving into the Stories

What does it mean to be young, Black, and female in America? In public education?
Delving into the Stories

What does it mean to be young, Black, and female in America? In public education?

- What does the text mean?
- How does the author convey the meaning?
- What connections, if any, can you make to the text?
- What questions are still lingering?
Delving into the Stories

10:00
Delving into the Research

Delving into the Research

Delving into the Research

Delving into the Research
What happens when you shift from using loud, bossy, or aggressive to using bold resistors, innovators, and leaders?
What does it look like when we center Black girls’ lived realities and create contested spaces for Black girls?
Research Partners

Amir

Melody

Kelsey

Jennifer

Marie

Dywanna
How do a group of five eighth grade African-American girls at a middle school in the southeastern U.S. respond to portrayals of size, race, and gender in adolescent texts and media?

What happens when they are given the opportunity to create counternarratives about gender, race, and obesity?

How do these portrayals impact the girls, their identities and literacy practices?
There are few robust and empirical accounts of converging social ideas of race, gender, size in the lives of adolescent girls.

There are few studies that look at adolescents' examination of body as text.
Contested Spaces
Contested Spaces

DARK GIRLS
REAL WOMEN. REAL STORIES.

Visual Image Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Skinny</th>
<th>Thick</th>
<th>Fat/Obese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Club Member:</td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image of young woman" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image of young woman" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image of obese woman" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contested Spaces

• Ambiguous Stance on Fat
• Colorism’s Enduring Legacy
• Complexities of Intersectionalities
• Counternarratives as Wisdom & Love
Text Dive
Delving into the Stories

10:00
1. Take stock of what we are doing for and with Black girls, and what still needs to be done in our school communities to support them socially and academically.

2. Adopt a Black Girls’ Literacies Framework approach in the classroom. This framework allows Black girls to draw on their critical literacies skills by reading and writing about their individual and collective experiences of being a Black girl in today’s context.

3. Realize the power of social media and their engagement with it. Black girls are taking to social media to self-define and reclaim their identities. We can re-envision the use of digital tools and literacies to support the intellectual activities of our Black female students.

4. Revel in the Black Girl Magic that exists around us! (Sealey-Ruiz, 2016)