

Kimberly Okeke

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Black Studies

My name is Kimberly Okeke, I'm a current sophomore at the University of Connecticut, and I plan to major in Political Science and double minor in Africana/ Urban and Communities Studies. I believe that Black Studies should not only be placed into elementary, middle, and high school curriculums but emphasized as well because black history is an essential part of American and world history. There is so much art, technology, music, and cultural aspects of our society in which is influenced by people of African descent. However, because of racist and prejudice ideologies that have been engraved into educational institutions; significant black figures are never been represented or taught in schools. It is important for the youth to know how influential Black people have been in history and the many incredible, impeccable accomplishments Black people have and still can do! By including Black Studies in school curriculums, it will not only help the youth gain knowledge on the history and accomplishments of Black People but it will help them to become more overt and opened minded towards a group of people who have been negatively marked and degraded for years. Black Studies also promotes the concept of Afrocentricity (created by Molefi Kete Asante. Afrocentricity is the concept of viewing people of African descent in a new light. Rather than focusing on Black people and their oppressive past (Atlantic

Slave Trade, police brutality, etc) Black studies will help people focus on the creations, customs, traditions, inventions, and more that Black people have partaken in. Black Studies is a need for the traditional classroom curriculum!