

# Week 1 Reading Notes: Beyond K12

**Student Activism** Call: TEDex @ MSU (9 min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlqFuSUVXQA>

## Notes:

- Ted Talk at MSU by Thaddeuss Tegall on the empty promises of Higher Education to students that are marginalized by society
  - Calls on the audience to question & understand 3 things:
    - **The history of higher ed**
    - **How it was built**
    - **How it operates now**
  - Higher ed is a microcosm of society, and suffers the same ills as society (phobias & isms).
  - Higher ed was built by the slaves, and their descendants sit in classrooms and experience microaggressions
  - U.S. constitution is built on the idea of by the people, for the people. It is an organization formed by people to serve the needs of people. Higher ed mission statements reflect this sentiment but it is empty
    - **1 in 4 student experience exclusion on campus**
    - **No channels to report abuses, extreme staff and faculty biases, and no institutional commitment to respect and integrity of students.**
  - How will we help higher ed to fulfill the promises they have elected to hold themselves to?
    - Student activism w/ the knowledge of the academy, using the voices and experiences to move and inform, to hold accountable
    - People will have to MOVE to solve the problems, they will not solve themselves.
  - Thaddeuss Tegall ends with spoken word on his experiences as a form of activism.
- ❖ Questions for the class:
- Do you think his call to action is appropriate?
    - Do you think this call to action is enough to change higher education?
  - Do you feel that Penn has the same issues? Of those in the higher education program are these issues discussed as legitimate? Are the solutions given appropriate time?

**“The Other Student Activists” -This may belong in the other week, a lot of TEEN activism**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2015/11/student-activism-history-injustice/417129/>

## Notes:

- We know about the power and might of college-age activists, but their younger counterparts are flexing their muscles.
- Middle and high school students become active to fight issues in their school
  - Chicago- Budget cuts, teacher layoffs, “die-in”
    - Racial disparities, VOYCE student group
  - Philadelphia-Budget cuts
  - Berkeley High (CA)- Walks outs due to KKK involvement
  - Portland, OR- Add ethnic studies back led by Asian/ Pacific Island students
    - Also working to bring “Asian, black, Latino, Pacific Islander, Arab, Native, and Queer-Trans-People-of-Color studies to all of Portland’s high schools within the next four years”

❖ Questions for the class:

- Do you feel youth activism in this space is recognized as legitimate? Why or why not?
- What other examples of youth activism and organizing are not presented in this article?

Fight for Latino Cultural Center at Duke (Birdie)

- Letter - <http://www.dukechronicle.com/article/2016/01/duke-without-mi-gente>
  - List of demands and explanation behind boycotting Latino/a student recruitment for the university
- News article - <https://www.thecollegefix.com/post/25998/>
  - Student reported, right-conservative perspective on the demands for a cultural student center.
- Update - <http://www.thebridgeis.com/what-we-know/2016/3/1/rna1noru4qwqyd76>
  - Updates on progress on the demands
    - Note - Need-Blind Admissions for undocumented students was announced Dec 2016.
    - Question - Is it problematic that the tripling of black faculty is used as an argument for doubling the Latinx faculty? (Pinning the communities against each other).