

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS

Dear NAME,

I write as [TITLE, especially if are in history- and/or academic-related work]. I live in [CITY/TOWN] and my child/children [if applicable] attended [LOCAL SCHOOL] from [YEAR RANGE]. [Further information on the quality of schooling received (particularly of history instruction), that of the school system as a whole, or other helpful details.]

I urge you in the strongest terms not to adopt *The New York Times*' "[The 1619 Project](#)," announced to great fanfare in 2019, as the basis for teaching American history in the [LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM]. Regrettably, school districts in several states and the District of Columbia [have already done so](#).

*The Project presents America's history as driven, nearly exclusively, by white racism:*

The Founding Fathers engineered the colonies' separation from Britain and their declaration of independence [solely to preserve the institution of slavery](#), which the British were intent on abolishing. America's subsequent Industrial Revolution, based as it was on capitalism and a free market economy, did nothing to ameliorate the institution; indeed, slavery was the reason capitalism emerged in the first place, and its pernicious effects continued well beyond its abolition after the Civil War.

Virtually nothing of any prominence and lasting value in America's contemporary economy has been achieved without the enslavement of black Africans beginning in 1619—and the government policies from which Americans benefit today were carried for the purpose of perpetuating "white supremacy"; one example cited in the Project, the [Interstate Highway System](#) established in the 1950s by the Eisenhower Administration, was designed expressly for the purpose of destroying black neighborhoods. And today we consume [excessive amounts of sugar](#) in our diet because the enslavement of blacks caused it to be plentiful.

*All of this, and nearly everything else in The 1619 Project, is entirely false, mostly false, or misleading.* If you do not take my word for it, what follows this paragraph are just a few of the many critiques of the Project offered by some of the most eminent American historians in the United States today, most of whom are politically liberal and highly critical of the Trump Administration:

["An interview with historian Gordon Wood on the New York Times' 1619 Project,"](#) Tom Mackaman, *World Socialist Web Site*, November 28, 2019.

["A Matter of Facts,"](#) Sean Wilentz, *The Atlantic*, January 22, 2020.

“A Historian’s Critique of the 1619 Project,” Victoria Bynum, *Renegade South*, December 22, 2019.

“History Without Truth,” K. C. Johnson, *City Journal*, December 31, 2019.

“The 1619 Project Debate: A Bibliography,” Phillip W. Magness, *American Institute for Economic Research* January 3, 2020.

You should also know that *the principal executor of the Project, Nikole Hannah-Jones, is an anti-white bigot* who claims, with a straight face, that whites today are descendants of “savages” and “barbaric devils,” and that Christopher Columbus is morally indistinguishable from Hitler:

“In Racist Screech, NYT’s 1619 Project Founder Calls ‘White Race’ ‘Barbaric Devils,’ ‘Bloodsuckers,’ Columbus ‘No Different Than Hitler,’” Jordan Davidson, *The Federalist*, June 25, 2020.

*Perhaps the most libelous aspect of the Project is its conclusion that America today remains irredeemably racist in its institutions, its society, and its national culture*—which means that the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, best exemplified in Martin Luther King’s magnificent speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, was an abject failure. Not even the 600,000 Americans who died in the Civil War should be singled out for praise and thanked posthumously for their sacrifice because the cause they fought for was not the elimination of slavery, nor even the preservation of the union, but rather the perpetuation of “white privilege” under the aegis of Jim Crow.

Hannah-Jones is not shy is [declaring](#) that *the ultimate objective of the Project is reparations for blacks*, in which whites not responsible for slavery or Jim Crow transfer some of their hard-earned money to blacks who did not suffer personally from either of these stains on our history. The Project is thus a form of extortion, a means of preying on unwarranted white guilt for nefarious and self-serving purposes.

Another aspect of the Project I find abhorrent and dishonest is that what inspired its adoption in school districts around the country since the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis was the notion—which has now become the conventional wisdom—that the police are racists, and kill black people not because they are guilty of crimes but because of their race. This is empirically false. It has no basis in reality and slanders literally thousands of decent police officers as racists solely on the basis of the color of their skin. In fact, law enforcement in America is not marred by any generic or “institutional” or “systemic” anti-black racism. Statistics provided by Peter Kirsanow, a current member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, make this amply clear:

“Flames from False Narratives,” Peter Kirsanow, *National Review*, June 4, 2020.

It is worth pointing out that according to a data base established by *The Washington Post*—which is hardly a right-wing or “pro-Trump” publication—in 2019 the total number of unarmed blacks killed by police in the entire United States was 15. Bear in mind that there are 42 million blacks in America today and that there were 686,665 police officers in the entire country in

2018; the total number of yearly police interactions with civilians of all races and ethnicities runs into the millions.

Finally, *the notion that white racism is somehow embedded in contemporary American society is absurd*. In virtually every major institution in America today blacks are the beneficiaries of preferences, misleadingly and euphemistically called “affirmative action” to conceal the fact that they are inherently discriminatory and unfair, and in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Why would the white racists who supposedly are in charge in our country today put in place preferences on behalf of people they consider to be racially inferior? Either these white racists are inordinately stupid or they are not really racists at all. The latter, both empirically and logically, is the truth.

I am grateful for your attention and consideration. The matter I am raising here is of critical importance. That American students today are taught about the virtues and the triumphs and the achievements of our country, as well as its failings and inadequacies, is essential in the creation of future generations of citizens capable of making informed and reasonable judgments about their political leaders and the policies they should pursue.

In sum, I hope you see to it that The 1619 Project in no way informs the teaching of American history in the [LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM].

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[ADDRESS]

[TITLE]