

It's

Our

Story

Now

The Writers of 432

By Ms. Torres and Mr. Adames'  
9th- 10th grade classes at  
International Community High School



Behind the Book / New York

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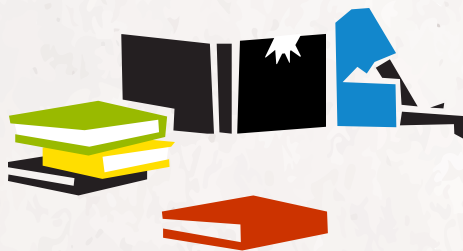
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Behind the Book's mission is to develop engaged readers and writers in underserved NYC public schools by designing and delivering programs that are multi-disciplinary, culturally responsive, and promote deeper connections to books and their authors.

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**Visiting Author:** Elisabet Velasquez

**Teachers:** Ms. Torres and Mr. Adames

**Principal:** Berena Cabarcas

**Curriculum Developer:** Alexandra Berndt

**Volunteers:**

Eishika Ahmed

Analuisa Cervantes-Romo

Mauricio Francolino

Yasmine Garay

Olivia Kiss

Shirley Merino

Alexandra Olson

Mya Peterson

Grace Riginos

Julia Schlesinger

Nomi Schwartz

Liz Valentin

**Program Facilitator:** Robert "Ameresoul" Cortijo

**Teaching Artist:** Candice Humphries

**Book Design Coordinator:** Adriana Moreno

**Book Designer:** Julian Mahecha

**Printing:** PDC Graphics, coordinated by Sherree Cobb

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In the interest of honoring student voice, Behind the Book presents students' work as received from the teacher.

# Dedication

We dedicate this book to future readers, especially those inspired by our hosts at Behind the Book. We hope that you can connect with what we are sharing with the world by reading our poems.

# About the Program

**What factors make a successful life and who determines what success looks like?**

**Can we reclaim agency over our lives by writing our own stories?**

The ninth and tenth graders in Ms. Torres and Mr. Adames' classes closely examined these complicated questions during this program through readings, media analysis, and art work including their own original writings. The result was an inspiring multidisciplinary project.

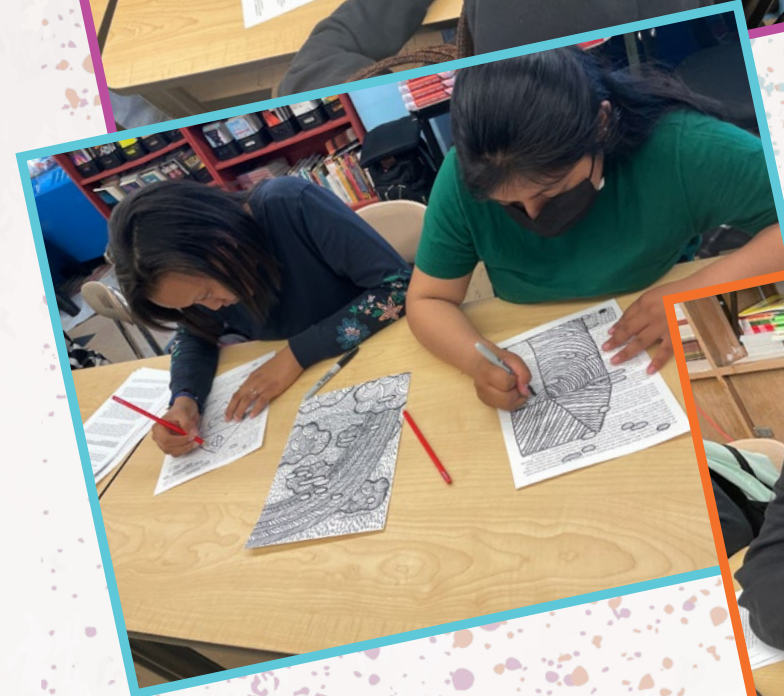
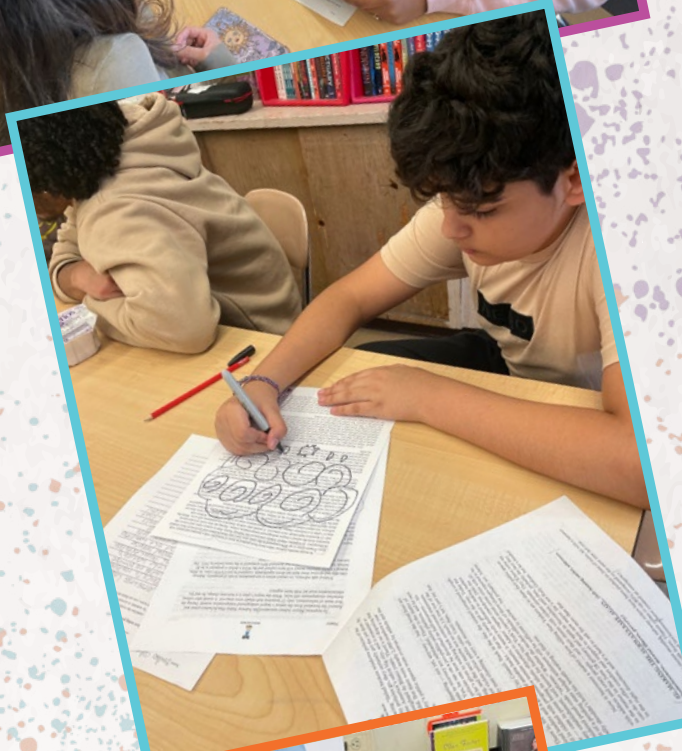
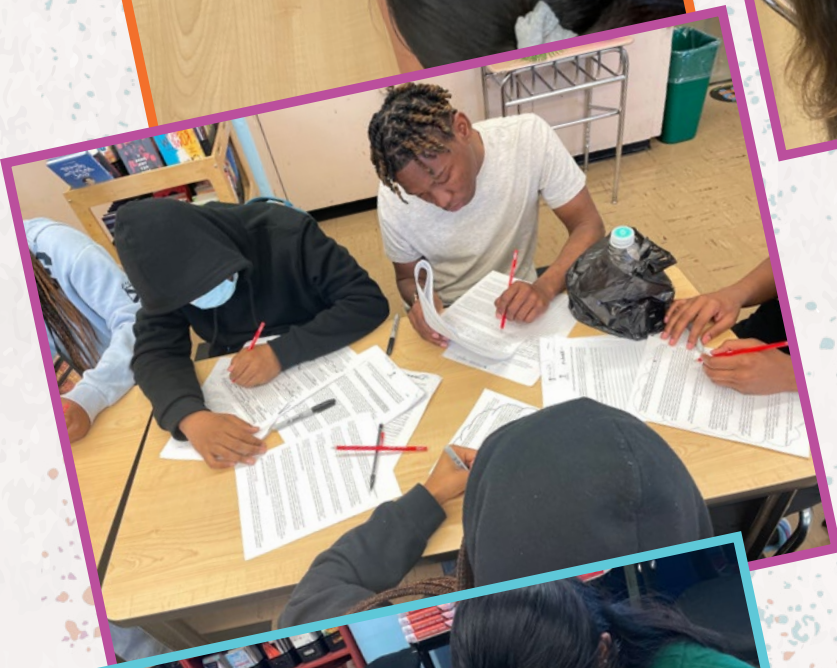
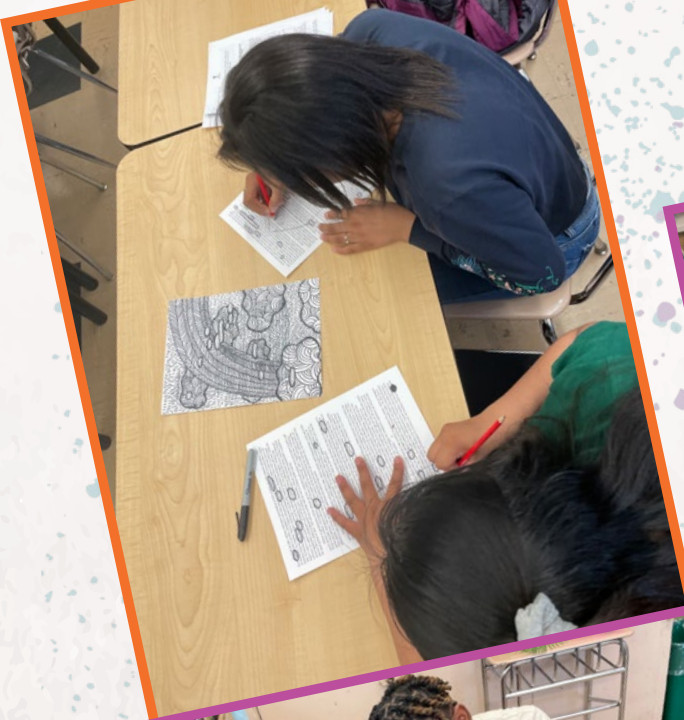
Students read *When We Make It* by Elisabet Velasquez, a novel-in-verse navigating the intersection of family, poverty, mental illness, sexuality, and racism for a Nuyorican teenager, Sarai, in gentrifying 1990s Bushwick, Brooklyn.

During Elisabet's visit, the class was treated to the author's performance of some of the book's poems and discussed how the

content related to their lives. She stressed Sarai's ongoing struggle with agency and self-worth. Mispronouncing names as a sign of disrespect resonated with students as many exclaimed that it happened to them "all the time."

In the research component, the class read and discussed news articles connecting themes from *When We Make It* to today. These included homelessness, crime, racism, school curriculum, LGBTQIA+ rights, gender issues, sexual assault, and community violence. Inspired by Elisabet's own blackout poetry in the book, the program asked students to use these news articles as the foundation for their own blackout poems.







# CLASS E

DARIANA	8
SARATA	9
FATOUMATA	10
MICHELL	11
JUSTIN	12
ANGEL E.	13
ANGEL M.	14
NAOMI	15
LISBETH	16
BRYAN	17
JOSTIN	18
ANGELICA	19
GREGORI	20
SLAYANA	21
EMILIO	22
FLOR	23
SANTIAGO	24

# Dariana

Our nation has... month span.  
Last week, Frank... Darrell  
Brooks drove h... ing 60  
others.

New York City subway, injuring 23 people

violence

radical

social

motivation

Black Lives Matter

The New York Times Magazine's "1619 Project"

historical

United States American history

anti-black racism

reserve

America

systemic racism

families, torture, whippings, rapes, castrations, lynchings and enslavement

persists, impacting

American life

CR

follows... American system of government.

core argumen

Amendment ha

systemically racist to justify

In the words of The Nation's Elie Mystal, "[t]he Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists.

# Sarata

In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit crime is up 10% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and mental illness created an image of lawlessness. Mayor Adams announced his strategy to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the subway system. During the last week of his term, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. Homeless encampments exist on the mayor's plan to welcome them, and his administration must act with more care without safe alternatives to return to the streets. Homeless individuals are being released from jails and are being compared to the COVID-19 cases to justify the money which is being spent on the MTA's definition of homelessness. Money will be spent on the homeless to help them return to the streets in 2021. The subway system will not be safe if these individuals are not removed.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy "sickening" and a "magical way of thinking." What is actually sickening is allowing people who cannot take care of themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn't be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If subway groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subway, then let them sue the city. Better to have a court fight than violence in our subways. The mayor will never be able to appease his critics, but I join the majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

To end the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The state is currently using AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are being released from the jail. CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT. The Department of Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment a priority. Continued funding, DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra's Law for non-violent offenders.

Homeless individuals apply for Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Medicaid services. Adams has approved the use of Medicaid funds to cover inpatient services for psychiatric patients. The number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness in the 2010s decreased by 20%. The state tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals, but the provision was not passed by the legislature. The state must continue to fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services officials who are building a warehouse-style shelter in Manhattan. This \$2 billion project is a major commitment of wrongdoing that deprives thousands of people of services. The state has so few service providers that about 100,000 people would be left without services. The state must regulate the care of people with mental illness and ensure that they are not in the streets.

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They didn't ask anybody who looked like me what they thought about the Constitution. Allegations of widespread government-sanctioned suppression of minority voters also continue to persist. Therefore, according to CRT, minorities are forced to live in a system designed to oppress them and the system is too flawed to allow for any reform internally.

CRT: Non-Whites Cannot Succeed Within the System

Perhaps most important to CRT and the idea of a "colorblind" America is the concept of "White Culture." The Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture defines "White Culture" as a set of measures of successful behavior (e.g. hard work, planning, etc.) that are viewed as the scientific method) as part of "White Culture."

Those who achieve wealth and/or educational success in the United States are openly attacked as being "white" characteristics of "white" people. Successful African Americans who do not adhere to such woke political or social stereotypes are publicly dismissed as "corrupt" or "greedy" or "Benevolent Roms." Thus, success for minorities in America is not only not a sign of progress, but as a sign of conformity with the dominant culture and a betrayal of their race.

If we wholeheartedly believe in those three statements, violence inevitably becomes your only option for progress. You live in an oppressive system, and within systems of oppression that prevent you from changing that society, and have no way to be successful within the system while staying true to yourself. Your only alternative is to destroy that system.

That is the thought process that Brooks and James expressed: "White people and Black people should not have any contact with each other," James argued. A June 2020 tweet by Brooks was even more direct: "[W]hen we start bakk knokkin white people TF out ion wanna hear it... the old white ppl 2, KNOCK DEM TF OUT!! PERIOD."

Of course, the members of the CRT movement who craft these beliefs and pass them on to others clearly don't believe their own teachings. Prominent CRT figures such as Ibram Kendi, Professor Culture, and Robert DiAngelo have achieved tremendous financial and professional success within the very system they are against. They are able to live comfortably in their neighborhoods and in social settings that are far removed from the violence and poverty that plague many minority neighborhoods.

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

The corporate, educational, and entertainment industries that so often find ways to profit by peddling CRT propaganda are largely insulated from the real-world consequences of the teachings cause. Unfortunately for passengers on the New York subway and parade goers in Minneapolis, some people believe in CRT wholeheartedly, and thus embrace violence as the ultimate solution to systemic racism.

A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

"Within 60 seconds of joining," she wrote in the post from December, "I was verbally and sexually harassed – 3-4 male avatars, with male voices, essentially, but virtually gang raped my avatar." She details watching her avatar get sexually assaulted by a handful of male avatars, who took photos and sent her comments like "don't pretend you didn't love it."

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabuni Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds to everyone 18 years and older in the United States and Canada on Dec. 9 after an invite-only beta test a year ago. It features thousands of virtual worlds by creators and is free to download for all users, but Meta plans to monetize the game by facilitating e-commerce and advertising, according to CNBC, similar to how it profits from its social media ventures Facebook and Instagram. Meta did not immediately respond to a request from USA TODAY to comment.

Meta envisions a virtual world where digital avatars connect through work, travel or entertainment using VR headsets. Zuckerberg has been bullish on the metaverse, believing it could replace the internet as we know it. "The next platform and medium will be even more immersive and embodied internet where you're in the experience, not just looking at it, and we call this the metaverse," said Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg last month after revealing the company's rebranding.

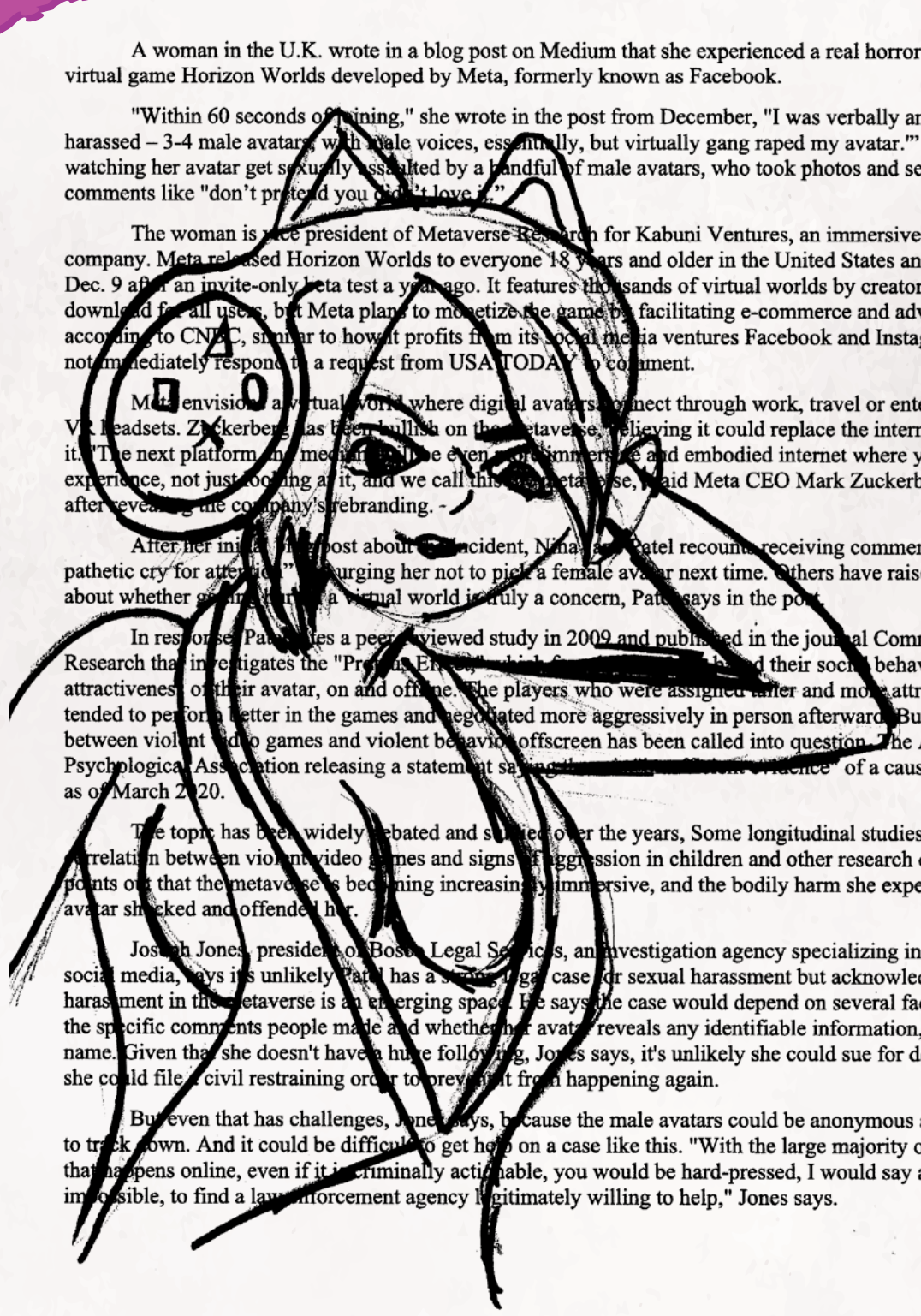
After her initial blog post about the incident, Niharika Patel recounts receiving comments calling it "a pathetic cry for attention," urging her not to pick a female avatar next time. Others have raised questions about whether getting hurt in a virtual world is truly a concern, Patel says in the post.

In response, Patel cites a peer-reviewed study in 2009 and published in the journal Communication Research that investigates the "Proxus Effect," which found that users changed their social behavior on the attractiveness of their avatar, on and offline. "The players who were assigned taller and more attractive avatars tended to perform better in the games and negotiated more aggressively in person afterward. But the link between violent video games and violent behavior offscreen has been called into question. The American Psychological Association releasing a statement saying there is "insufficient evidence" of a causal relationship as of March 2020.

The topic has been widely debated and studied over the years. Some longitudinal studies show a correlation between violent video games and signs of aggression in children and other research disputing it. Patel points out that the metaverse is becoming increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm she experienced in her avatar shocked and offended her.

Joseph Jones, president of Boston Legal Services, an investigation agency specializing in cyber and social media, says it's unlikely Patel has a strong legal case for sexual harassment but acknowledges that harassment in the metaverse is an emerging space. He says the case would depend on several factors, such as the specific comments people made and whether her avatar reveals any identifiable information, such as her name. Given that she doesn't have a huge following, Jones says, it's unlikely she could sue for defamation, but she could file a civil restraining order to prevent it from happening again.

But even that has challenges, Jones says, because the male avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. And it could be difficult to get help on a case like this. "With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if it is criminally actionable, you would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency legitimately willing to help," Jones says.



Angel E.

Adrian

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the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

New York State boasts the second most B-Corp certified companies in the country, which go through a  
certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. You also have a  
strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a fund for new business to help the homeless  
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Angel M.

In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subways, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of fare revenue and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID. As our money will have expired and the MTA's deficit is projected to increase, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new police "bullying" and a "magical way of thinking." What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn't be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which include removing passengers at the end of the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If advocacy groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then they should leave the city. Better to have a fight in court than violence in our subways. Mayor Adams has appeased his critics, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting the police on our subways.

To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. Mayor Adams should support Kendra's Law whenever possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Hochul and like-minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. This \$2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after a shelter provider commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is to have a few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operates this way. If markets are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

New York State boasts the second most B-Corp-certified companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework of incentives to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting more of the inefficient, old system that has a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to the MTA, 120% increase in just three years and the highest ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now.



Naomi

In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with forces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 21 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subways, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity. Subway ridership and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. The federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA's deficit is projected to be \$2 billion. Subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, this is not the new normal. It is a "magical way of thinking." What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot cope with the world to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should do everything possible to get the homeless off the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the sidewalks and parks. They should not be allowed to turn tunnels, train cars and platforms into their homes.

Police are supporting the mayor's efforts to protect passengers at the end of the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsafe environments. If advocacy groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a fight in court than a fight in our subways. The mayor will never be able to appeal his choices, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

To stem the tide of the mentally ill on the streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Riker Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra's Law whenever possible.

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# Lisbeth

In recent months, subway riders have seen rush hour from door trains hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. Unsurprisingly, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 21 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subways, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity, subway ridership and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. In 2026, federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA's deficit is projected to be \$2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

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To stem the tide of the mentally ill having underground and on our streets, the mayor currently suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests, and institutionalized hospitalizations. The plan to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Reentry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides cash services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra's Law wherever possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 Executive Budget, the Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the legislature. Hochul and like-minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Carl Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. His \$2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. A year after shelter provider contracts wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is that there are no few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would eliminate the industry the market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

New York has one of the second most Big Corporation companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for new players to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, old system that has a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to DHS, 640 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, a 20% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the bill for stacking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now.

# Bryan

... has been rocked by at least two significant acts of domestic terrorism in a five-month span. Last week, James opened fire in a New York City subway, injuring 23 people. In November, Darrell Brooks drove a truck through a Christmas parade in Waukesha, Wisconsin, killing 6 people and injuring 60 others.

Both perpetrators are black, which is a bit unusual given that mass shootings have historically been perpetrated by white men. More significantly, both Brooks and James had expressed radical views on social media advocating violence towards whites in the lead-up to their attacks, strongly suggesting race relations were a key motive for their acts of violence. (Naturally, the mainstream media has neglected to find out if it was indeed their motivation.) Ditto for Quintez Brown, a Black Lives Matter activist who was charged with the attempted assassination of Louisville mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg in February, and Micah Johnson, who killed five Dallas police officers in 2016. Meanwhile, public perceptions about the state of race relations in the country have plummeted.

These anecdotes, particularly during increasing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been a detriment to racial progress rather than a force for good. The harmful impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considering several of its basic tenets.

## CRT Teaches America Is Racist

The New York Times Magazine's "1619 Project," the brainchild of Nikole Hannah-Jones, expresses a historical view in which America's true founding was in 1619, the year African slaves were first brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed and analyzed through a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, argues that the U.S. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a "slavocracy," and criticizes Abraham Lincoln's approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last June from our very own National Archives argued that America's founding documents are steeped in systemic racism.

Philadelphia-based attorney and radio host Michael Coard perhaps best sums up the CRT view of American history, as he decried the Fourth of July as "a celebration of kidnapping, transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, whippings, rapes, castrations, lynchings and enslavement." The conclusion, then, is that the history of slavery persists, impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

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The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution is racist, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Second Amendment have all recently been attacked as systemically racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation's Elie Mystal, "[t]he Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists.

The usual suspects say darkly that Mayor Eric Adams is Rudy Giuliani in disguise, and it is to laugh. Really, New York City should be so lucky. The city's progressive cabal and the usual media claque claim the rookie mayor's supporting public-safety policies amount to warmed-over Giuliani-era jackbootery that reinforces past failures and fuels present anger. Oh? Which failures — and, really, what anger? It seems that eight years of de Blasio dystopia isn't enough for some people. They need a steady diet of preventable public disorder to be happy — and they mean to do everything they can to gin it up.

This explains the otherwise mystifying opposition to Adams' ongoing cleanup of 250 or so vagrant villages around the five boroughs — filthy, rat-plagued disease vectors fashioned from cardboard and stolen plastic sheeting. Truly, people of conscience would wish them on their worst enemies. They were endemic when Giuliani became mayor in 1994 — but most or mass disappeared shortly thereafter. There's no mystery about what happened: Mayor's determination to be rid of them, combined with the introduction of humane and very expensive social-services alternatives, largely did the job. It remains to be seen whether Adams can replicate that success — he's certainly sailing into strong headwinds — but there doesn't seem to be much doubt about one thing: He's morally offended by the hovels as Giuliani was a generation ago. And he seems determined to do something about them.

Cue the blowback. "Mayor Adams has launched an offensive against New York City's most vulnerable," proclaimed the City Council's progressive caucus. This makes clear the mayor's intention to return to the failed broken windows policies of the 1990s." "Back to the Giuliani era," proclaimed one media headline. "Adams' order to clear homeless camps ignites fury in New York." Yet the only fury placed in evidence in the accompanying story came from the council's progressives and their allies, so the opposition to the mayor's street cleanup seems — at best — to be circular.

Certainly polls show that New Yorkers in general aren't the least bit angry with Adams' efforts — quite the contrary. They're terrified of crime, they hate disorder, and they stand behind the mayor. As for the claim that Adams is embracing "failed broken windows policies of the 1990s," well, one can only hope. As public-safety policies go, they certainly got the job done: By now it's a cliché, but New York truly did become America's safest big city, and it remained so until everything began to unravel during the benighted de Blasio years. There's no disputing that Giuliani's approach to public safety was stellar. But there were nearly 2,000 murders a year back then; crime was out of control and the city's public spaces were overrun by addicts and the insane. Tough times called for tough policies.

Today's challenges aren't quite so daunting — not yet, anyway — but the trend lines are frightening and the institutional impediments to recovery are substantial. There is the matter of Adams' commitment and staying power. Yes, he ran on a pro-public-safety platform, and he says a lot of the right things. But some of his policies can best be described as half-measures — his anti-gun initiative comes to mind — and he's given to walking back controversial statements. (One day he's for quality-of-life policing, and the next maybe not so much.) A true test of the man will come, inevitably, with his first violent police-public crisis. Until then, let's just say that Eric Adams is an institutionally lonely man climbing a very tall mountain.

There is, for example, the City Council. Back in the day, the council comprised a couple of inspired leaders and a gaggle of amiable hacks — that is, it rarely got in the way. Today the council is riddled with progressive termite tunnels; it seems truly dedicated to making matters worse — case in point being its idiotic objections to Adams' vagrant crackdown. Ditto the Albany establishment, well known for fueling New York's current street-crime crisis with ill-considered penal-code "reforms." Whether the modest rollbacks of those changes reported to be part of a pending state budget settlement will be sufficient is unclear — but probably not. Adams really shouldn't hold his breath waiting to find out.

Now it becomes a matter of how willing New Yorkers are to share their public spaces with addicts and crazy people — and their streets with violent criminals. They'll have some say in the matter in the June 28 primary and again in November; until then, probably the best they can do is offer comfort and support to their new mayor. He's not Rudy Giuliani, but he's headed in the right direction, and it's hard to ask for more than that.

It wasn't that long ago when my three adult children were little kids. Throughout their childhood, I never had to worry about what was being taught in their schools. I never had to worry that a student of the opposite sex was going to play on my children's sports teams or use their school bathrooms. Most importantly, I was never afraid that teachers, counselors, and administrators might deliberately conceal what was being taught in school. But oh, how times have changed in the 10 years since my youngest child graduated from high school. Many parents today are worried that critical race theory and gender ideology are being taught without the parents' knowledge or consent. Neither was included in the curriculum when we were in school.

I applaud Florida Governor Ron DeSantis for addressing the concerns many parents have about changing school curriculum. DeSantis signed the Parental Rights in Education bill at a March 18 ceremony. Dubbed by critics as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, the new law prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade, and after third grade, sex education in Florida must be age appropriate. The law empowers parents to sue school districts over violations. DeSantis said the law was needed because of incidents of LGBTQ indoctrination of young children in Florida schools. As an example, he displayed LGBTQ educational materials including a "Genderbread Person" chart that was found in Florida classrooms and used to teach young children about gender identity and sexual orientation.

After DeSantis spoke, Florida mom January Littlejohn talked about how, without her knowledge or consent, a Florida middle school created a transgender gender-affirming support plan for her 13-year-old daughter. "Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention that can lead to significant decisions that will impact the child's mental and physical well-being," said Littlejohn, who is a licensed mental health counselor in Florida. "Often social transition is the first step toward medical transition. And schools are grossly unqualified to be making these steps without parental involvement." In addition to the Parental Rights in Education bill, DeSantis signed curriculum transparency legislation giving parents the right to information on the curriculum and library books in their children's schools. Last year, DeSantis signed the Parents Bill of Rights, which prohibits the government from infringing on the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education and health care of minor children.

Pennsylvania lacks the parental rights and curriculum transparency laws that now exist in Florida. Last December, Gov. Wolf vetoed transparency in education legislation which would have required Pennsylvania schools to make available online information such as course numbers and textbooks being used. Undeterred by Wolf's veto, state Sen. Ryan Aument, is crafting a new education bill. According to Aument's legislative director, Stephanie Buchanan, the bill would require schools to notify parents before using any sexually explicit materials in the curriculum. Parents would be able to check out library books with such material.

The state Department of Education website has information on equity and inclusion that school districts are encouraged to include in their curriculum. While the website states that critical race theory is not taught in Pennsylvania schools, the information on the website uses many of the concepts from this controversial social justice movement. On the website, under equity and inclusion, the Department of Education provides information on LGBTQ inclusive curricula starting in kindergarten. I agree with Gov. DeSantis that it's not a good idea to teach this kind of material to young children.

According to recent polls, voters across party lines disapprove of teaching critical race theory and gender ideology to young children in public schools. For instance, a recent online poll of swing district voters sponsored by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee found that 61% of these voters agreed with the statement "Democrats are teaching kids as young as five critical race theory, which teaches that America is a racist country and that white people are racist." The Wall Street Journal recently published the results of a new poll by Public Opinion Strategies. According to the poll, 61% of respondents agree with the Florida Parental Rights in Education law. When poll participants were categorized by political party and demographics, 67% of parents, 60% of suburban voters and 55% of Democratic voters supported the parental rights law.

It's hard to imagine being the parent of young children today and having to deal with the gradual, unrelenting push from the left to implement critical race theory and gender ideology in public schools. Hopefully, Pennsylvania parents will teach woke politicians a lesson at the ballot box come November.

Our nation was shaken by at least two significant acts of domestic terrorism in a one-month span. Last week, a New York City subway, it was reported, was attacked by Darrell Brooks and James Brooks, who were charged with killing 6 people and injuring 60 others.

Perpetrators are black, shootings perpetrated by white men (Brooks and James), advocating violence (white attacks, strongly), violence neglected to find (their motivation Black Lives Matter charged), attempted in February in 2016, perceptions about race relations.

Black Lives Matter

CRT teaches American history is racist

The Constitution was first brought to the United States through a transatlantic slave trade. For example, Hannah Jones contends that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, argues that the Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a system of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last year from our very own National Archives argued that America's founding documents are steeped in systemic racism.

Philadelphia-based attorney and author of *White Rage* sums up the CRT view of American history, as he decried the Fourth of July as the celebration of kidnapping, transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, whippings, rapes, castrations, lynchings and enslavement." The conclusion, then, is that the history of slavery persists, impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

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# Slayana

It wasn't that long ago when my three adult children were little kids. Throughout their childhood, I never had to worry about what was being taught in their schools. I never had to worry that a student of the opposite sex was going to play on my children's sports teams or use their school bathrooms. Most importantly, I was never afraid that teachers, counselors, and administrators might deliberately conceal what was being taught in school. But oh, how times have changed in the 10 years since my youngest child graduated from high school. Many parents today are worried that critical race theory and gender ideology are being taught without the parents' knowledge or consent. Neither was included in the curriculum when my kids were in school.

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It's hard to imagine being the parent of young children today and having to deal with the gradual unrelenting push to indoctrinate children in critical race theory and gender ideology in public schools. The push is coming from Pennsylvania parents who really woke up this year at the ballot box on November 3rd.

# Emilio

In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit time is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced... remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system.

...pre-pandemic levels of... subway ridership and revenue... compared to pre-COVID years. In 20... federal COVID stimulus money was... is projected to be \$2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80%... period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy "sickening" and a "magical way of thinking." What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subway and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn't be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If they groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a court case than violence in our subways. The mayor will never be able to appease his critics, but I join the majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding... is on Rikers Island. The Community Mental Health Assistance Network (CMHAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CMHAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals supports this organization. CMHAN should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. CMHAN also needs to make use of Kendra's Law whenever possible.

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New York City boasts the second most B-Corp-certified companies in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental impact. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for new players to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will not succeed by inviting talent into an inefficient, old system that has a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to DHS, 640 homeless New Yorkers died in fiscal year 2021, 120% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves, now.



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In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced a Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subways, we cannot reach pre-pandemic levels of prosperity. Subway ridership and revenue from fares are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. In 2026, federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA's deficits projected to be \$2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

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# Santiago

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Both perpetrators are black, which is a bit surprising given that mass shootings have typically been  
perpetrated by white men. More significantly, both Noel and James had expressed radical views  
via radio advertising with threats in the lead-up to their attacks. Noel suggested that he would  
commit acts of violence. Naturally, the mainstream media has glorified Noel's actions, including  
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# BLACKS

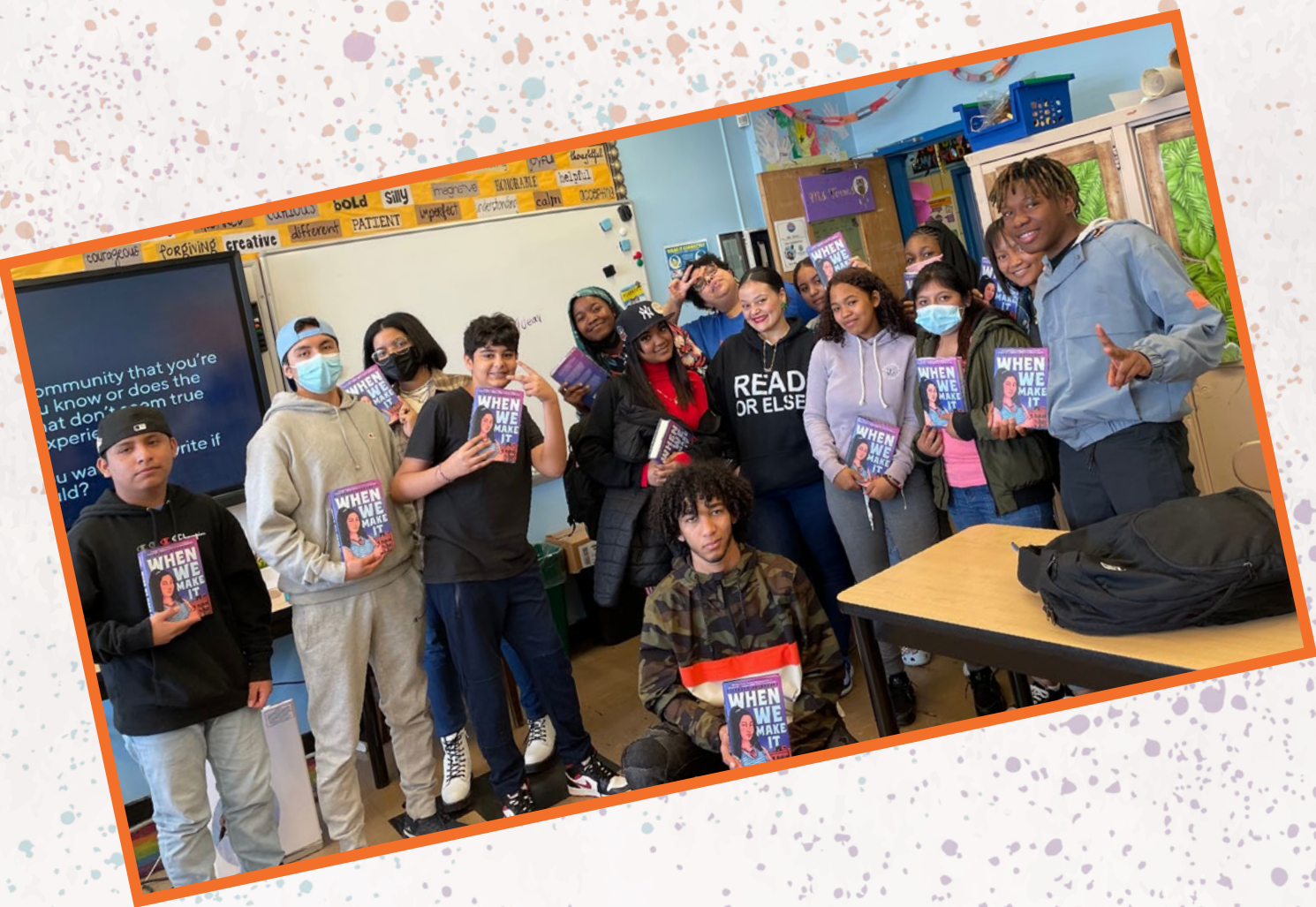
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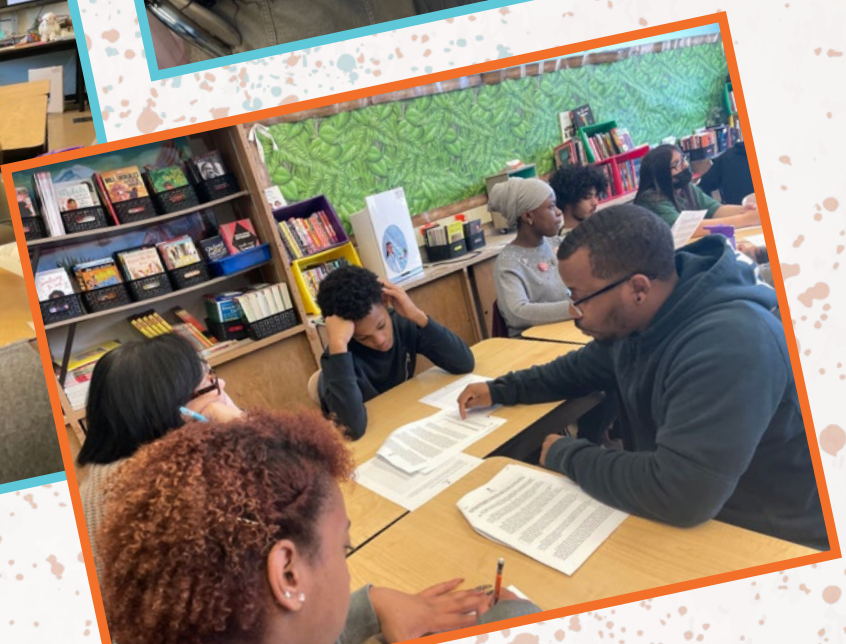
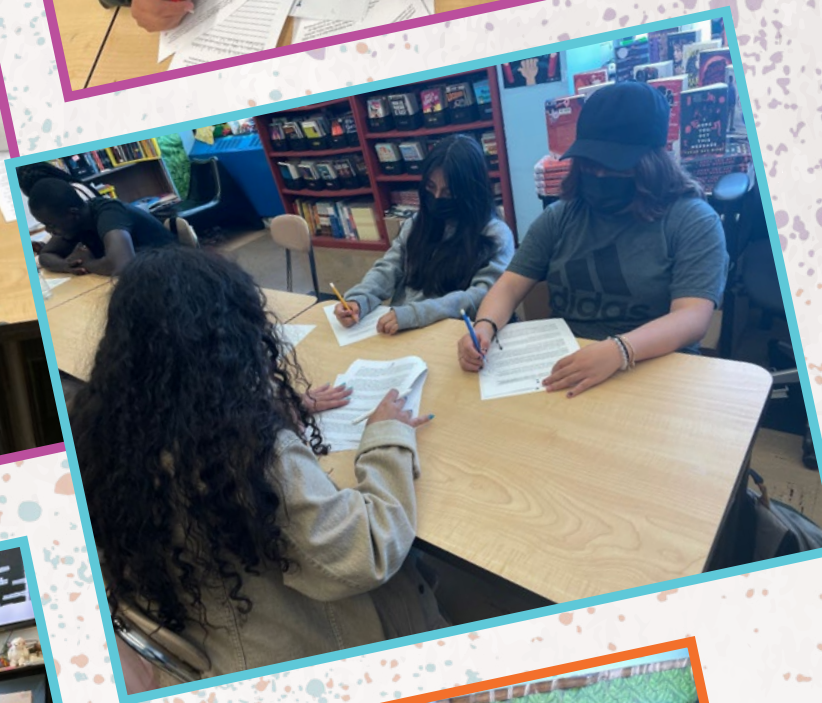
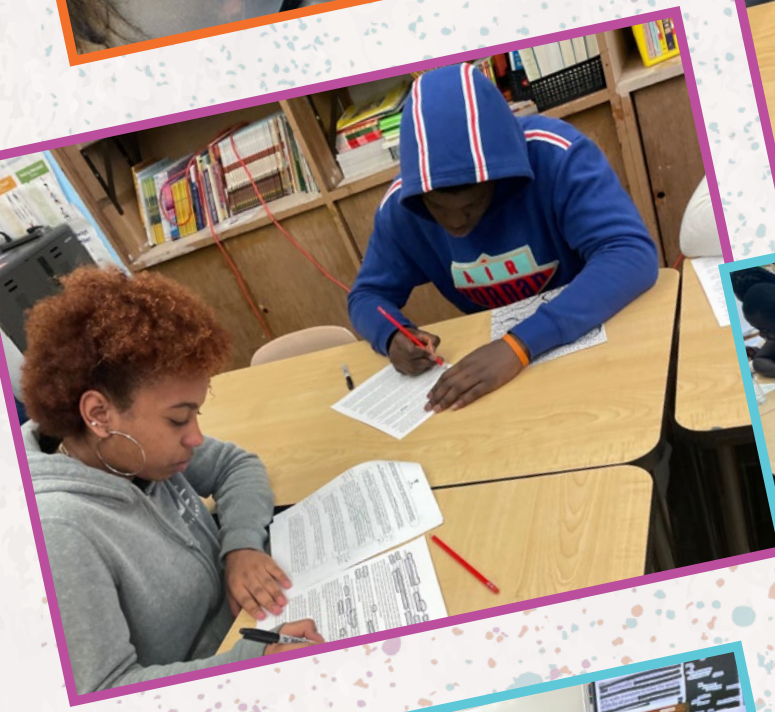
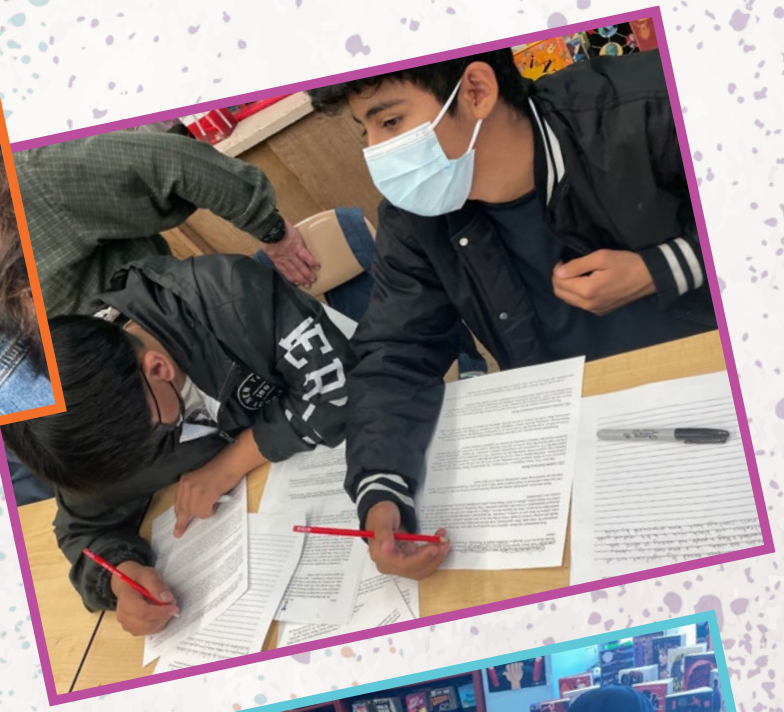
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# LIVES

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# MATTER





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In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with force. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of implementation, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. While the mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without safe subway stations, commuters are in danger. Homeless people are being evicted from their homes and the MTA is projecting a 10% increase in subway ridership while subway stations are being closed to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not have a safe and secure environment.

Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. NYC Health and Hospitals is the new policy, sickening and a dangerous way of addressing. What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly through the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subways and keep them off. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else to get around the city, but they shouldn't be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior and create a hostile environment. Homeless advocacy groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on subways, then let them sue the city. Better to have a fight in court than violence in our subways. The mayor will never be able to appease his critics, but I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as Kendra's Law. Participants in AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness, arrests and institutionalized hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Network (CRAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRAN should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra's Law whenever possible.

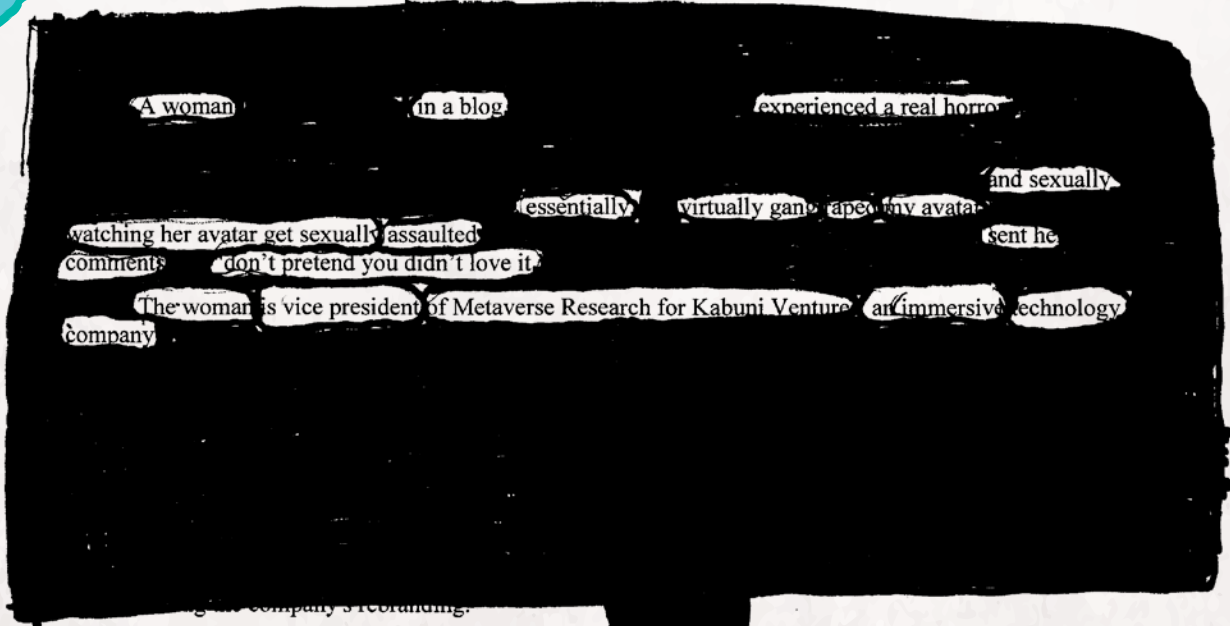
Gov. Hochul should apply for Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Medicaid waivers, as Adams has urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2021 Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Hochul and like-minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. This \$2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after a shelter provider commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is that there are so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

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Emely

770-7654A



A woman in a blog experienced a real horror and sexually essentially virtually gane rape my avata watching her avatar get sexually assaulted sent he comments don't pretend you didn't love it The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabuni Venture an immersive technology company

After her initial blog post about the incident, Nix recounts receiving comments calling it "a pathetic cry for attention" and urging her not to pick a fight next time. Others have raised questions about whether getting hurt in a virtual world is truly a crime, says in the post.

In response, Patel cites a peer-reviewed study in the journal Communication Research that investigates the "Proteus Effect," which found that people based their social behavior on the attractiveness of their avatar, on and offline. The players designed taller and more attractive avatars tended to perform better in the games and negotiated more effectively in person afterward. But the link between violent video games and violent behavior offline has been called into question. The American Psychological Association releasing a statement saying "insufficient evidence" of a causal relationship as of March 2020.

The topic has been widely debated and studied over the years, Some longitudinal studies show a correlation between violent video games and signs of aggression in children and other research disputing it. Patel points out that the metaverse is becoming increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm she experienced in her avatar shocked and offended her.

Joseph Jones, president of Bosco Legal Services, an investigation agency specializing in cyber and social media, says it's unlikely Patel has a strong legal case for sexual harassment but acknowledges that harassment in the metaverse is an emerging space. He says the case would depend on several factors, such as the specific comments people made and whether her avatar reveals any identifiable information, such as her name. Given that she doesn't have a huge following, Jones says, it's unlikely she could sue for defamation, but she could file a civil restraining order to prevent it from happening again.

But even that has challenges, Jones says, because the male avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. And it could be difficult to get help on a case like this. "With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if it is criminally actionable, you would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency legitimately willing to help," Jones says.

PROTEUS

A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabuni Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds to everyone 18 years and older in the United States and Canada on Dec. 9 after an invite-only beta test a year ago.

Facebook and Instagram. Meta did

Meta envisions a virtual world where digital avatars connect through work, travel or entertainment using VR headsets. Zuckerberg has been bullish on the metaverse, believing it could replace the Internet as we know

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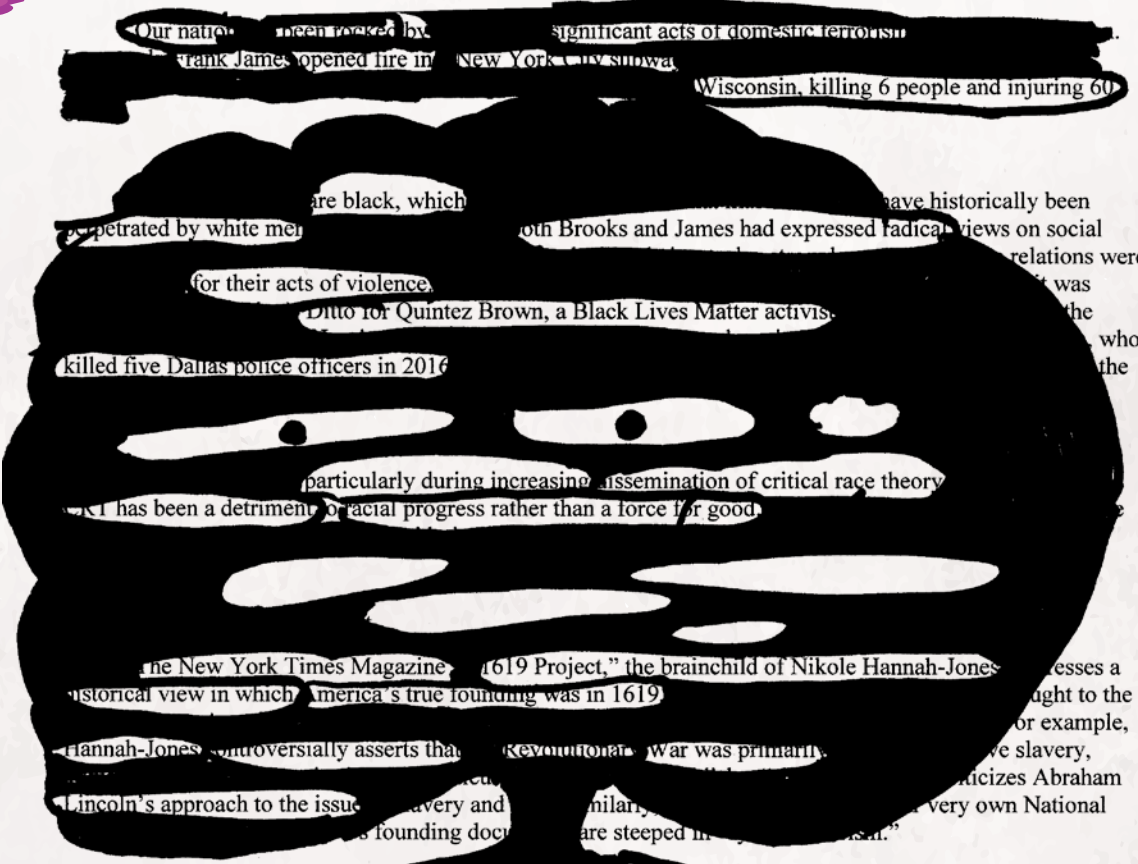
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# Ramon



Our nation has been rocked by significant acts of domestic terrorism.  
Frank James opened fire in New York City, Wisconsin, killing 6 people and injuring 60

are black, which have historically been perpetrated by white men. Both Brooks and James had expressed radical views on social relations were for their acts of violence.

Ditto for Quintez Brown, a Black Lives Matter activist who killed five Dallas police officers in 2016.

particularly during increasing dissemination of critical race theory. CRT has been a detriment to racial progress rather than a force for good.

The New York Times Magazine "1619 Project," the brainchild of Nikole Hannah-Jones, presents a historical view in which America's true founding was in 1619.

Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily about slavery. She criticizes Abraham Lincoln's approach to the issue of slavery and compares it to the very own National Constitution, which she claims is steeped in racism.

Philadelphia-based author Howard Zinn's book "The Moral Choice" perhaps best sums up the CRT view of American history, as he describes the Fourth of July as a celebration of "stealing, transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, whipping, rapes, castration, lynching, and enslavement." The conclusion, therefore, is that the history of slavery has consistently impacted all aspects of American life to this very day.

## CRT Teaches American Government is Racist

The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution is racist, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Supreme Court, have recently been attacked as systematically racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation's "The Mysterical Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonists... white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists."

*Ramon*



A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post that she experienced a virtual sexual assault in Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, known as Facebook. She was verbally and sexually harassed and sexually assaulted by a handful of male avatars. She took photos and sent her comments, and pretended you didn't love it.

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kasumi Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds to everyone 13 years and older in the United States and Canada on Oct. 5, but Meta plans to monetize the platform by integrating e-commerce and advertising. Kasumi Ventures Facebook and Instagram responded to a request from USA Today for comment.

Horizon Worlds is a virtual world where users can create avatars and interact with others. It is an embodied internet where you're in the metaverse.

Patel, Nina Jane, pick a female avatar. She is getting hurt in the virtual world is truly a concern.

"Proteus Effect," people's social behavior. Attractiveness of avatars affects how people perform better in games. Aggressively in person with attractive avatars.

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The research shows, some longitudinal studies show a correlation between the use of avatars and signs of aggression in children and other research disputing it. Patel points out that the metaverse is becoming increasingly immersive, and the bodily harm she experienced in her avatar shocked and offended her.

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# Cheikhouna

In recent months

In recent months, subway riders have been pushed in front of trains, hit with a hammer and struck with feces. Transit crime is up 80% compared to the same time last year. Homelessness and lawlessness have created an emergency. In response, Mayor Adams announced his Subway Safety Plan to reduce crime and remove the homeless from the nation's largest underground transportation system. During the first week of enforcement, only 22 homeless individuals were removed. A month after rollout, homeless encampments still exist. Mayor's plan is a welcome change, he and his administration must act with more urgency. Without the subway, we cannot return to pre-pandemic levels of prosperity. Subway ridership and revenue are down significantly compared to pre-COVID years. In 2026, federal COVID stimulus money will have expired and the MTA's deficit is projected to be \$2 billion. Meanwhile, subway crime has increased 80% compared to the same period in 2021. The subway system will not survive if these trends continue.

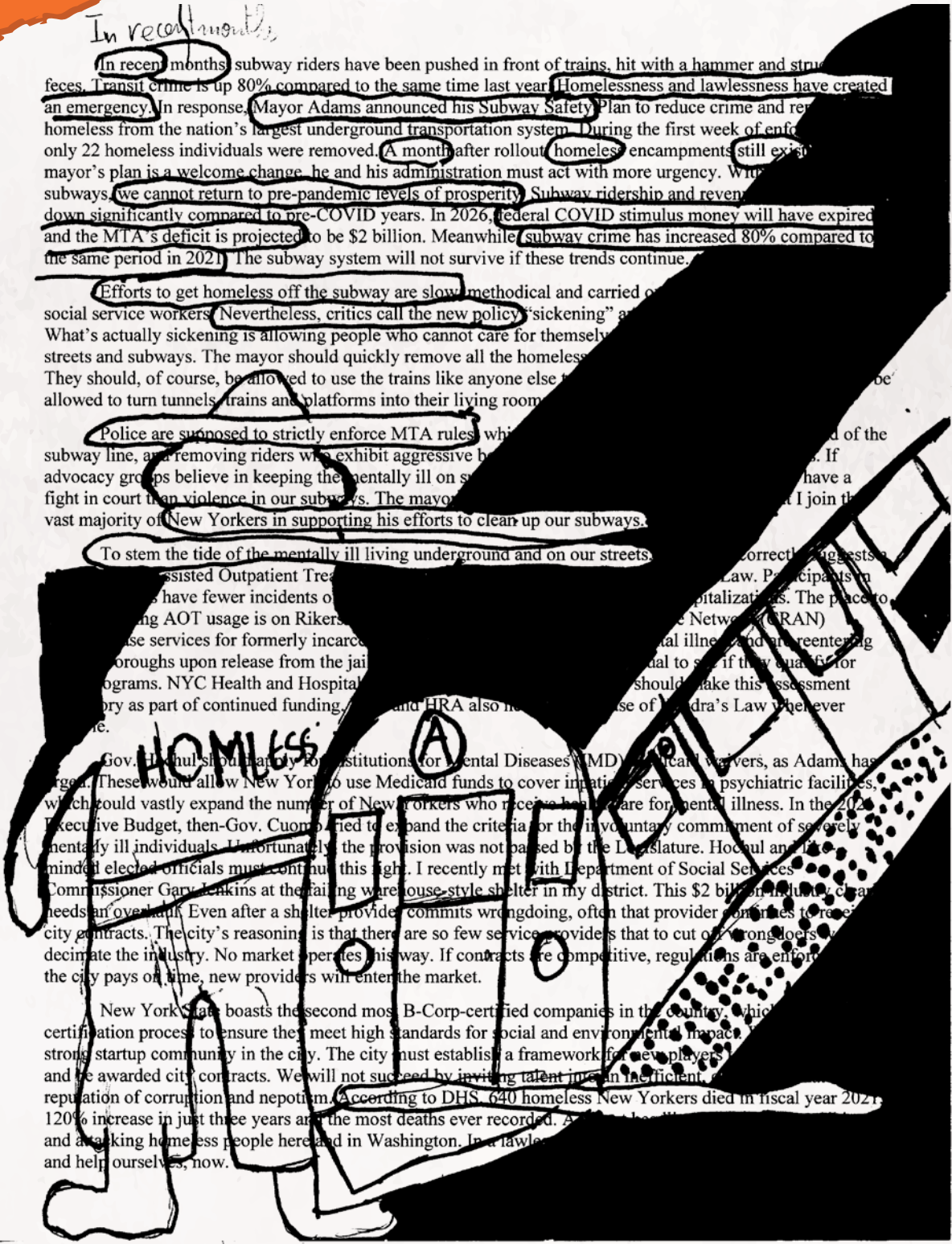
Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy "sickening" and "inhumane". What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to live on the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove all the homeless from the subway. They should, of course, be allowed to use the trains like anyone else. They should be allowed to turn tunnels, trains and platforms into their living rooms.

Police are supposed to strictly enforce MTA rules, which include no sleeping on the subway line, and removing riders who exhibit aggressive behavior. Advocacy groups believe in keeping the mentally ill on the subway. They have a fight in court than violence in our subways. The mayor should I join the vast majority of New Yorkers in supporting his efforts to clean up our subways.

To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the city should correctly suggest that the assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Law. Participants in AOT have fewer incidents of hospitalizations. The place to reduce AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Network (CRAN) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals with mental illness and are reentering the city boroughs upon release from the jail. The city should make this assessment as part of continued funding. The city should also make use of the Law whenever possible.

Gov. Hochul should partially fund the State Institute for Mental Diseases (SMD) program, as Adams has argued. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover inpatient services in psychiatric facilities, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the 2022 Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of severely mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Hochul and the minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. This \$2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after a shelter provider commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is that there are so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced, and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

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Cheikh

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To stem the tide of the mentally ill living under the subways, the mayor suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Mental Health Act (CMHA) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who are reentering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRJ should ensure that all individuals qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which is the lead agency for this assessment, should make AOT mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS should enforce the law whenever possible.

Gov. Hochul should apply for Institutionalized Mental Diseases (IMD) Medicaid. Mayor Adams has urged. These would allow New York to use Medicaid funds to cover outpatient services for mental illness, which could vastly expand the number of New Yorkers who receive health care for mental illness. In the Executive Budget, then-Gov. Cuomo tried to expand the criteria for the involuntary commitment of mentally ill individuals. Unfortunately, the provision was not passed by the Legislature. Unconcerned minded elected officials must continue this fight. I recently met with Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary Jenkins at the failing warehouse-style shelter in my district. This \$2 billion industry clearly needs an overhaul. Even after a shelter provider commits wrongdoing, often that provider continues to receive city contracts. The city's reasoning is that there are so few service providers that to cut off wrongdoers would decimate the industry. No market operates this way. If contracts are competitive, regulations are enforced and the city pays on time, new providers will enter the market.

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Our nation has been rocked by significant acts of terrorism. Last week in a New York City subway people in November, killing 6 people and injuring 60 others.

Non-operators are black, which is a bit unusual given that mass shootings have historically been perpetrated by white men. More significantly, both Brooks and James had expressed radical views on social media advocating violence towards whites in the lead-up to the attacks, strongly suggesting racial motivations were a key motive for the acts of violence. (Notably, the mainstream media has neglected to find out what was indeed their motivation.) Ditto for Quanez Brown, a Black Lives Matter activist who was charged with the attempted assassination of Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer in February. And Michael Brown, who killed five Dallas police officers in 2016. Meanwhile, public perceptions about the state of race relations in the country have plummeted.

These anecdotes, particularly during increasing dissemination of critical race theory (CRT), suggest CRT has been a detriment to racial progress rather than a force for good. The harmful impacts of CRT on race relations are unsurprising when considering several of its basic tenets.

### CRT Teaches America Is Racist

The New York Times Magazine's "1619 Project," the brainchild of Nikole Hannah-Jones, expresses a historical view in which America's true founding was in 1619, the year African slaves were first brought to the United States. American history is thus viewed and analyzed through a lens of anti-black racism. For example, Hannah-Jones controversially asserts that the Revolutionary War was primarily fought to preserve slavery, argues that the U.S. Constitution was meticulously crafted to establish a "slavocracy," and criticizes Abraham Lincoln's approach to the issue of slavery and race. Similarly, a report last June from our very own National Archives argued that America's founding documents are steeped in "systemic racism."

Philadelphia-based attorney and radio host Michael Coard perhaps best sums up the CRT view of American history, as he decried the Fourth of July as "a celebration of kidnapping, transporting/buying/selling human beings, separating families, torture, whippings, rapes, castrations, lynchings and enslavement." The conclusion, then, is that the history of slavery persists, impacting all aspects of American life to this very day.

### CRT Teaches American Government Is Racist

The Constitution remains the law of the land, and if you believe that the Constitution is racist, then it follows that the American system of government, which is based on the Constitution, is also racist. This is a core argument of CRT: American institutions, including the Electoral College, the Senate, and the Second Amendment have all recently been attacked as systemically racist to justify their abolition.

In the words of The Nation's Elie Mystal, "[t]he Constitution is kind of trash... It was written by slavers and colonists, and white people who were willing to make deals with slavers and colonists.

Ana

It wasn't that I was being taught in my schools, I never had to worry that a student of the opposite sex was playing on my extracurricular sports teams or using my school bathrooms. Most importantly, I was never being taught in school about critical race theory and gender ideology. Many parents were worried about their youngest child graduating from high school without the proper foundation.

The new law prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade. After third grade, Florida must be age appropriate. Florida has a long history of providing the best education possible for all students. Because of this, Florida has the highest graduation rates in the nation. Florida classrooms are full of students learning without gender ideology.

After a Florida middle school created a transgender gender clinic for its 13-year-old daughter, Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention that involves significant decisions that will impact the child's mental and physical well-being. Florida has a long history of providing the best education possible for all students. Florida classrooms are full of students learning without gender ideology.

Pennsylvania lacks the parental rights transparency in education legislation that now exist in Florida. Last December, Gov. Wolf vetoed transparency in education legislation, which would have required Pennsylvania schools to make available online information about the curriculum and textbooks being used. Undeterred by Wolf's veto, state legislative director, Steve Kvas, signed the bill into law.

Disapprove teaching critical race theory and gender ideology to young children. Democrats are the racist and white people are racist. The

From families, parents will teach their children about the world and how to deal with it. Schools should not be teaching gender ideology to young children.

# Rainieris

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Efforts to get homeless off the subway are slow, methodical and carried out by joint teams of police and social service workers. Nevertheless, critics call the new policy a failure. What's actually sickening is allowing people who cannot care for themselves to wander aimlessly on the streets and subways. The mayor should quickly remove the homeless from the subway system. They should, of course, be allowed to get around the city, but they shouldn't be allowed to turn manholes, trains and public spaces into a dumping ground.

Police are supposed to stop the behavior that includes removing passengers at the end of the subway line. They are supposed to stop people who exhibit aggressive behavior and create unsanitary environments. If advocacy groups believe in the mentally ill, let them sue the city. They should have a fight in court, not violent in our subways. The mayor will never be able to appease his critics. A vast majority of New Yorkers in support of his efforts to clean up our subways.

To stem the tide of the mentally ill living underground and on our streets, the mayor correctly suggests a greater use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs, better known as CEMTS. AOT programs have fewer incidents of homelessness and hospitalizations. The place to start expanding AOT usage is on Rikers Island. The Community Re-entry Assistance Service (CRANS) provides case services for formerly incarcerated individuals who have severe mental illness and are re-entering the five boroughs upon release from the jail. CRANS should screen every individual to see if they qualify for AOT programs. NYC Health and Hospitals, which supports this organization, should make this assessment mandatory as part of continued funding. DHS and HRA also need to make use of Kendra's Law when possible.

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New York State has the second most B-C rated counties in the country, which go through a certification process to ensure they meet high standards for social and environmental services. We also have a strong startup community in the city. The city must establish a framework for new providers to help the homeless and be awarded city contracts. We will succeed if we have a strong, competitive market. We have a reputation of corruption and nepotism. According to DHS, 640 homeless deaths were recorded in 2021, a 120% increase in just three years and the most deaths ever recorded. A recent headline was the killer stalking and attacking homeless people here and in Washington. In a lawless city, the homeless suffer most. Help them and help ourselves now.



A woman in the U.K. wrote in a blog post on Medium that she experienced a real horror play out in the virtual game Horizon Worlds developed by Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

"Within 60 seconds of joining," she wrote in the post from December, "I was verbally and sexually harassed - 3-4 male avatars with male voices, essentially virtually gang raped my avatar." She details watching her avatar get sexually assaulted by a group of avatars who took photos and sent her comments like "don't pretend you didn't."

The woman is vice president of Metaverse Research for Kabumi Ventures, an immersive technology company. Meta released Horizon Worlds in the U.S. and Canada on Dec. 9 after an invite-only beta test and is free to download for all users, but Meta plans to charge for in-game purchases and advertising, according to CNBC, similar to how it works on other social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram. Meta did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Meta envisions a virtual world where digital avatars connect through work, travel or entertainment using VR headsets. Zuckerberg has been bullish about the metaverse, believing it could replace the internet as we know it. "The next platform and medium will be the metaverse, an immersive and embodied internet where you're in the experience, not just looking at it, and interacting with it," said Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg last month after revealing the concept.

After her initial blog post, Nina Jane Patel, a lawyer receiving comments, calling it "a pathetic cry for help" and urging her not to pick a female avatar. Her comments have raised questions about whether the metaverse is safe for women.

In response, a study from the Journal of Personality and Social Research that found that people based their social behavior on the attractiveness of their avatar. More attractive avatars tended to perform better in social interactions. But the link between violent video games and violence has been called into question. The American Psychological Association releasing a statement that there is "insufficient evidence" of a causal relationship as of March 2020.

The topic has been widely debated in the past few years. Some longitudinal studies show a correlation between violent video games and signs of aggression in children and other research disputing it. Patel points out that the metaverse is becoming more popular, and the bodily harm she experienced in her avatar shocked and offended her.

Joseph Jones, president of Boston-based investigation agency specializing in cyber and social media, says it's unlikely Patel has a strong legal case for sexual harassment but acknowledges that harassment in the metaverse is an emerging issue. The case would depend on several factors, such as whether the specific comments people made are defamatory. If they reveal any identifiable information, such as her name, it's unlikely she could sue for defamation, but she could file a civil restraining order to prevent them from contacting her again.

But even that has challenges. If the avatars could be anonymous and may be hard to track down. And it could be difficult to get help on a case like this. "With the large majority of harassment that happens online, even if it is criminal, it would be hard-pressed, I would say almost impossible, to find a law enforcement agency willing to help," Jones says.

It wasn't that long ago when my three adult children were little kids. Throughout their childhood, I never had to worry about what was being taught in their schools. I never had to worry that a student of the opposite sex was going to play on my children's sports teams or use their school bathrooms. Most importantly, I was never afraid that teachers, counselors, and administrators might deliberately conceal what was being taught in school. But oh, how times have changed in the 10 years since my youngest child graduated from high school. Many parents today are worried that critical race theory and gender ideology are being taught without the parents' knowledge or consent. Neither was included in the curriculum when my kids were in school.

I applaud Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis for addressing the concerns many parents have about the changing school curriculum. DeSantis signed the Parental Rights in Education bill at a March 28 ceremony. Dubbed by critics as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, the new law prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation in kindergarten through third grade. After third grade, sex education in Florida must be age appropriate. The law empowers parents to sue school districts over violations. DeSantis said the law was needed because of incidents of LGBTQ indoctrination of young children in Florida schools. As an example, he displayed LGBTQ educational materials including a "Genderbread Person" chart that was found in Florida classrooms and used to teach young children about gender identity and sexual orientation.

After DeSantis spoke, Florida mom January Littlejohn talked about how, without her knowledge or consent, a Florida middle school created a transgender, gender nonconforming support plan for her 13-year-old daughter. "Social transition is a medical and mental health intervention that can lead to significant decisions that will impact the child's mental and physical well-being," said Littlejohn, who is a licensed mental health counselor in Florida. "Often social transition is the first step toward medical transition. And schools are grossly unqualified to be taking these steps without parental involvement." In addition to the Parental Rights in Education bill, DeSantis signed curriculum transparency legislation giving parents the right to information on the curriculum and library books in their children's schools. Last year, DeSantis signed the Parents Bill of Rights, which prohibits the government from infringing on the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education and health care of minor children.

Pennsylvania lacks the parental rights and curriculum transparency laws that now exist in Florida. Last December, Gov. Wolf vetoed transparency in education legislation, which would have required Pennsylvania schools to make available online information such as course summaries and textbooks being used. Undeterred by Wolf's veto, state Sen. Ryan Aument, is crafting a new education bill. According to Aument's legislative director, Stephanie Buchanan, the bill would require schools to notify parents before using any sexually explicit materials in the curriculum or before allowing students to check out library books with such material.

The state Department of Education website has information on equity and inclusion that school districts are encouraged to include in their curriculum. While the website states that critical race theory is not taught in Pennsylvania schools, the information on the website uses many of the concepts from this controversial social justice movement. On the website, under equity and inclusion, the Department of Education provides information on LGBTQ inclusive curricula starting in kindergarten. I agree with Gov. DeSantis that it's not a good idea to teach this kind of material to young children.

According to recent polls, voters across party lines disapprove of teaching critical race theory and gender ideology to young children in public schools. For instance, a recent online poll of swing district voters sponsored by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee found that 61% of these voters agreed with the statement, "Democrats are teaching kids as young as five critical race theory, which teaches that America is a racist country and that white people are racist." The Wall Street Journal recently published the results of a new poll by Public Opinion Strategies. According to the poll, 61% of respondents agreed with the Florida Parental Rights in Education law. When poll participants were categorized by political party and demographics, 67% of parents, 60% of suburban voters and 55% of Democratic voters supported the parental rights law.

It's hard to imagine being the parent of young children today and having to deal with the gradual, unrelenting push from the left to implement critical race theory and gender ideology in public schools. Hopefully, Pennsylvania parents will teach woke politicians a lesson at the ballot box come November.