

**From:** Alia Ghabra

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:12 AM

**To:** Ethnic Studies

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Arab American students need to learn their histories

Dear Ethnic Studies Open Comment,

As an Arab American who is now an educator, I remember feeling disconnected to what I was learning in school and felt uncomfortable with how little others knew of my culture beyond insults and stereotypes. Arab American studies is critical in a country rife with Islamophobia and racism. I honestly don't even understand how this is debatable.

All people deserve to have their histories reflected in what they study - and in a nation of immigrants, how could this not include Arab and Islamic histories and contributions.

TURATH (Teaching Understanding and Representing Arabs Throughout History) is a 2020 report researched and written by the teenage members of Arab Youth Organizing (AYO). According to AYO's findings, more than 66% of the students surveyed said they received most of their information on Arabs and/or Muslims from the internet or television; only 2.3% learned about Arabs and/or Muslims at school.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alia Ghabra