

## Public Input Template–2020 Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum May 2019 Draft

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Include the chapter of the model curriculum, the page number, and line number(s) to ensure that the California Department of Education and Instructional Quality Commission can reference the content of the document when reviewing your comments. Please email this document as a Word document to [ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov). You may contact Kenneth McDonald, Education Programs Consultant, at [kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov](mailto:kmcdonal@cde.ca.gov) with any questions regarding this template or the public input process. [ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ethnicstudies@cde.ca.gov).

ALL	<i>James Kalivs, Psy.D., Lifelong Californian Democrat, Licensed Psychologist #PSY28521 Los Angeles, CA</i>	<p>We need to teach our students cultural competency and humility. However, in my professional opinion, this draft displays and encourages groupthink to a dangerous degree. The world is not black and white, it is nuanced and complex as are the issues this draft addresses. Yet, as worded, the tone of the text feels like its goal is to inculcate rather than educate- to encourage a specific political outcome, rather than to encourage healthy discourse around historically difficult and nuanced topics.</p> <p>In private practice, I treat teenagers from every SES and from multiple ethnicities. I'm seeing a dramatic rise in young patients w severe dep and anx (including African American and Latino students) who are terrified to view dissenting opinions because many have been shamed by professors and bullied (sometimes physically) by groups of classmates. In one instance, a suicide attempt occurred after an incredibly bright 17 y/o female latino patient (w a dream to become a lawyer) was publically shamed by campus activists for discussing her libertarian opinions.</p> <p>Groupthink is a psychological phenomenon that occurs within a group of people in which the desire for harmony or conformity in the group results in an irrational or dysfunctional decision-making outcome. Group members try to minimize</p>
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		<p>conflict and reach a consensus decision without critical evaluation of alternative viewpoints by actively suppressing dissenting viewpoints, and by isolating themselves from outside influences. Groupthink is the heuristic that lead to the loss of NASA's Challenger.</p> <p>Groupthink requires individuals to avoid raising controversial issues or alternative solutions, and there is loss of individual creativity, uniqueness and independent thinking. (Continued on next page)</p>
		<p>The dysfunctional group dynamics of the "ingroup" produces an "illusion of invulnerability" (an inflated certainty that the right decision has been made). Thus the "ingroup" significantly overrates its own abilities in decision-making and significantly underrates the abilities of its opponents (the "outgroup"). Furthermore, groupthink can produce dehumanizing actions against the "outgroup".</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and due diligence in the creation and implementation of this Ethnic Studies program.</p>