

Songs in the Key of My Life



Danné E. Davis, Ph.D.,
Montclair State University, NJ
2018 NCSS Chicago, IL



Soundtracks

music that supports or provides background or backup for a film or movie

AND



THEN

What's on
your
Soundtrack?

story or event recorded by a camera shown on a personal, public, theater, or tv screen; a motion picture

- 1. Discover a critical listening strategy for use with songs that have a socially conscious message**
- 2. Gain perspective on one African American woman's lived experience**
- 3. Appreciate songwriters' intent to teach about the human experience**
- 4. Consider songs for your instructional soundtrack**



Culture Mismatch

Many people in the U.S. grew-up and still reside in **segregated spaces**, w/out intimate friends and significant social interactions **with people unlike them** (Delgado & Stefanic, 2001; Nieto & Bode, 2008).

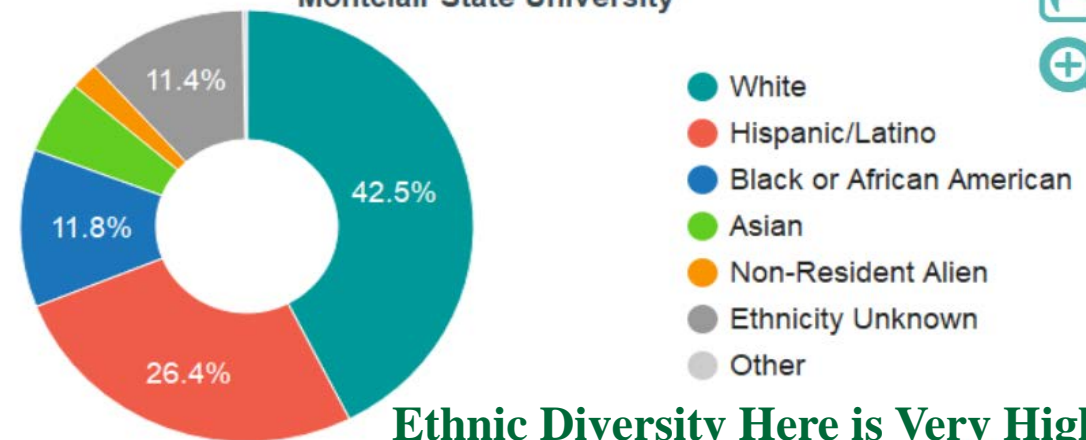
Most prospective teachers are White, middle-class, females with **minimal, authentic understanding**, if not a **skewed perspective**, of what life is like for **Black and brown youngsters** who live and learn amid economic challenges (Orfield & Lee, 2005).

Students of color may encounter problems in schools b/c of teachers' incomplete knowledge of learning and communication styles of diverse students (Morgan, 2010).



Detroit's Eight Mile "segregation" Wall built in the nineteen-forties to separate Black and White homeowners.

Ethnic Diversity of Undergraduate Students at Montclair State University



Ethnic Diversity Here is Very High

collegeractual.com

Cultural Mismatch



- Teachers' **unawareness of the tacit rules, nuances, and idiosyncrasies** of students creates a cultural mismatch likely to impede teaching and learning (Davis, 2009).
- **Cultural incongruity complicates** teachers' ability to tap into learners' sociocultural lives and academic histories to create scholastically relevant experiences and lessons (Villegas & Davis, 2008)

Pedagogy that's irrelevant, inaccessible, & out of synch with students is intolerable, unjust as it supports a deficit oriented professional stance.

Guiding Questions

1. How might I use my personal soundtrack to help prospective teachers grasp sociocultural nuances that will position them to fittingly interact—e.g. plan and teach—in the future with schoolchildren of color and their families?
2. How might an individual's soundtrack of lived experience be used to teach social studies?



MUSIC

- has the potential to develop **cross-cultural and inter-cultural understandings**
- lyrics and songs have the power to transcend cultural boundaries of race, ethnicity and social class (Clarke, DeNora & Vuoskoski, 2015).
- Like **a salve**, music is a prescription for anyone seeking to resolve discord, conflict, and incompatibility (Campbell, 2018).
- Effects the **head and the heart**

