

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- At the beginning of the video, Mr. Prager asks, “What’s the difference between a liberal and a leftist? This question stumps most people because they think liberal and left are essentially the same. But they aren’t. In fact, liberalism and leftism have almost nothing in common. But the left has appropriated the word ‘liberal’ so effectively almost everyone — liberals, leftists and conservatives — thinks they are synonymous.” Why do you think that the Left purposely appropriated the ‘Liberal’ term for its own ideology? How might confusion about the two ideologies being similar benefit the Left? Explain.
- In his first example demonstrating the major differences between Liberals and Leftists, Mr. Prager notes that, “...liberals have always been passionately committed to racial integration, while the left is increasingly committed to racial segregation— such as all-black dormitories and separate black graduations at universities.” Why do you think that Leftists disavow equality and are advocating for racial segregation? Do you consider this advocating of racial segregation to be racist? Why or why not?
- In another example, Mr. Prager points out that, “Liberals believe in the nation-state, whether that nation is the United States, France, or Brazil. But because the left divides the world by class rather than by national identity, the left has always opposed nationalism.” Why do you think that the Left divides the world by class? Why do you think that the Left opposes nationalism?
- Mr. Prager explains in a further example that, “No one has been more committed than American liberals to the famous statement, ‘I wholly disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.’ But the left is leading the first widespread suppression of free speech in modern American history — from the universities to the tech companies that govern the internet to almost every other institution and place of work. Of course, the left claims to only oppose ‘hate speech.’ But putting aside the fact that the left deems ‘hate speech’ anything it differs with, protecting what you or I might consider hate speech is the entire point of free speech.” Why do you think that the Left wishes to limit and suppress such a fundamental right as free speech, especially speech that only it can supposedly deem as oppressive? Do you agree with such a significant limitation on freedom? Why or why not?
- Mr. Prager concludes the video by asking, “So, then, if liberalism and leftism are so different, why don’t liberals oppose the left? In a nutshell, because they have been taught all their lives to fear the right. But as one of the best-known liberals in America, Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, said, ‘As a liberal, as an American and as a Jew, I far more fear the left than the right.’ Dear liberals: Conservatives are not your enemy. The left is.” Why do you think that Liberals are taught to fear the Right more than to fear the Left? In what ways are the Left an ‘enemy’ of Liberals? Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Segregated Graduations

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Oakland Tech to hold first Black Graduation, joins growing movement to celebrate one’s own culture,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What percentage of Oakland Technical High School is African American? What other kind of niche ceremonies are being held at schools across the country? Who is Charlie Kirk, and what did he have to say about Harvard University having a separate black graduation ceremony? Who is Felicia Phillips, and what was her defense of having the separate ceremony? Who is Elizabeth Hunter, and how did she define ‘equity’ for students? What did Ms. Hunter have to say about possibly having a ‘white only’ graduation?
- Do you think that the separate graduations are racist? Why or why not? Are you in favor of schools having segregated graduations? Explain. Do you think that a school having a ‘white only’ graduation would be okay? If yes, why? If no, what’s the difference between having a ‘niche’ graduation for other racial groups and for whites? Do you see the actualization of ‘niche’ graduations as an extension of identity politics? Why or why not?
- Clearly, the Left is at odds with Liberals in terms of advocating equality and inclusion. In what other fundamental ways might the Left be opposite and different from Liberals, in terms of basic values that drive the ideology? Explain.



QUIZ

LEFT OR LIBERAL?

- 1. Liberalism and leftism have only a few differences.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 2. What of the following examples is probably where liberal and left differ the most?**
 - a. Capitalism
 - b. Nationalism
 - c. Free speech
 - d. Race

- 3. Opposition to capitalism and advocacy of socialism are _____ values.**
 - a. conservative
 - b. liberal
 - c. left-wing
 - d. alt-right

- 4. The left regards America as _____.**
 - a. homophobic
 - b. xenophobic
 - c. racist
 - d. All of the above.

- 5. The most revered liberal in American political history is _____.**
 - a. Winston Churchill
 - b. Senator Chuck Schumer
 - c. Fidel Castro
 - d. President Franklin Roosevelt



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://www.ktvu.com/news/oakland-tech-to-hold-first-black-graduation-joins-growing-movement-to-celebrate-one-s-own-culture>

Oakland Tech to hold first Black Graduation, joins growing movement to celebrate one's own culture

By: Lisa Fernandez

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OAKLAND, Calif. - For the first time, at least in modern history, the 143 African-American students at Oakland Technical High School will host their own Black Graduation ceremony on Monday, two days before the mainstream commencement.

It is the only high school in the Oakland Unified School District to hold such a ceremony and was an idea that was first rebuffed. Nearly 40 percent of the school's 2,000 students are African American. And many say they wanted to celebrate their particular struggles and achievements, which only people from their cultural background could understand.

“At Oakland Tech, we’re not supposed to be oppressed,” said Donae Taylor, 17, the senior behind this year’s Black Graduation. “But it’s hard for black students to get equality. I feel like our voices can only be

heard if a white person says it for us. Having our own graduation honors our struggles, our heartaches, being talked down to and proving we didn't cheat on tests. It's to give us an extra pat on the back."

The lines between "celebration" and "segregation" are getting blurry. <https://t.co/9zzo9Ftn2T>

— David Smalley (@davidcsmalley) May 22, 2018

Oakland Tech joins public institutions such as the University California at Berkeley, Berkeley High and for the first time this year, the West Contra Costa Unified School District, all of which hold separate black graduations. Harvard University held its first official commencement for black graduate students last year, in addition to the commencement ceremony for the entire school where they received their diplomas.

There is a growing movement for niche community graduations across the country, including a "Lavender" graduation held at the University of Delaware for the LGBTQ community and a "First-Generation Graduation" held at Columbia University in New York.

Critics see these events as having a separatist attitude, something Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., worked hard to fight against. And they are being held at a time when the country is rife with accusations of racism and hateful attitudes toward 'the other.'

"This is racist and a disgrace to all racial progress made over the last 60 years," tweeted Turning Point USA Director Charlie Kirk about the Harvard black ceremony. "MLK would be disgusted at this." Los Angeles comedian David Smalley tweeted, "The lines between 'celebration' and 'segregation' are getting blurry." In regards to the Tech event, UpInit22 tweeted, "Hmm... if this was a white only graduation it would cause an uproar." And Marlencha1922 tweeted, "this is quite racist."

The debate rages inside the African-American community too. On Facebook, Cheri Laws Jordan from Oakland, who is black, wrote this is "not OK. Teaching separation of race. We seem to be moving backwards."

But the advocates of smaller "cultural" graduation celebrations do not see what they're doing as anti-desegregation. Supporters say the special ceremonies are simply a way to honor marginalized communities in a way that's fitting and meaningful particularly to them. Jrae Hardin, from Vallejo, who is also black, wrote on Facebook that there is a big difference between segregation, which is a government policy of exclusion, and separation, which is allowing a community to isolate itself while still having the same access to educations and services.

"This is not an event to separate but to celebrate traditions in students' lives," said Berkeley High vice principal Felicia Phillips. She added that "everyone is invited" to attend these ceremonies. But many have particular rituals and customs that would not necessarily be appropriate to perform at a general population event.

Harvard will host its first ever "black only" graduation ceremony

This is racist and a disgrace to all racial progress made over the last 60 yrs

MLK would be disgusted at this

By the way, if you are a black person that goes to Harvard, you are the furthest thing from oppressed

— Charlie Kirk (@charliekirk11) May 21, 2018

For example, libations are poured at the Berkeley High African-American graduation and people call out the names of those who helped them on their journey. The Latino/Chicano students at Berkeley High hold

a separate graduation ceremony in a Catholic church, and the Asian students perform cultural dances from South Asia.

“We want these to be safe spaces where people can commune,” Phillips said.

At Oakland Tech, the idea for a black graduation had been turned down several times and there were several back-and-forth emails of discontent, said Elizabeth Hunter, the school’s college and career readiness specialist. Some people didn’t feel it was appropriate, especially to spend public school money on the separate event. Others thought a black graduation would replace the mainstream commencement, which will be held two days later on Wednesday at the Paramount Theater. It does not. In fact, OUSD spokesman John Sasaki emphasized that the Black Graduation is not an official commencement as no one wears a cap and gown and no diplomas are handed out.

So Donae and Hunter set out to get their own funding. Hunter launched a GoFundMe page. She asked for parent donations. Everett & Jones BBQ agreed to give some food to the event, which will be held in the school auditorium. Once everything fell into place and no public dollars went to support it, the principal gave the program the OK.

And the green light is a big deal, Hunter said. Even though every student is handed a diploma at graduation, she said the path to get that diploma is the not same for everyone. "Oakland Tech's commencement is really a 'white commencement,' "Hunter said.

She added: “Oakland Tech strives to make sure that every student gets resources. But equity isn't handing kids all the same thing. It's giving kids without, what other kids have.”

As examples, she said that many African Americans may struggle in school but can’t afford private tutors to help. Or, black students feel they are accused of cheating or told they won’t amount to anything, let alone graduate. Once, Donae told her teachers she couldn't attend something after school because she had another meeting. They assumed she didn't care and was being lazy, she said, noting that often white students miss class for meetings or sports and no one questions them.

“We are looked down upon because of our skin tone,” Donae said.

The elite engineering and Paideia English and history programs at Oakland Tech are mostly white, Hunter and Donae pointed out.

“No one understands the African-American struggle except the African-American community,” Hunter said.

She added that any group who feels like they aren’t being heard should get to host their own ceremony if they want. In fact, Oakland Tech has a template for creating a special ceremony for individual groups if they so choose, Sasaki said. That said, she and others acknowledged that have a special "white graduation" likely would not be OK, but if a group wanted to hold an Irish cultural ceremony, that would be more appropriate.

Donae agrees. She said she was first told by the principal that she couldn’t hold a black graduation because then “all the other races would want their own.”

For Donae, that would be fine. But for now, it’s only the African American students who have been asking.

“If they don’t ask for it, then they can clearly don’t want it that much,” Donae said. “Why can’t we have it when we’re asking for it?”