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To whom this may concern,

Critical Race Theory (CRT) is the academic way to show how systematic racism affected our history in America through law.

Throughout history people of color (POC) have faced many obstacles and have often been overlooked in that moment. When in those positions there was not much help nor education to help stop experiencing severe injustice. CRT brought exposure to the forefront of the black and brown community through education but was also a stepping stone to decreasing racism. Critical Race Theory explains that, although white people were part of the evolution of America, people of color were just as responsible for what is on our soil today. With the negative treatment among the more diverse community due to the past, our present society is negatively affected.

Effects and feelings of racism trickle through all ages due to Generational Trauma, and through that many interactions people of color experience have detrimental outcomes. For example, due to segregation between black and white people, black people may not feel as comfortable entering a setting with the majority of white people simply because at one point it was forbidden and severe consequences were done if so. Behavior travels through generations

as well. Due to events of this nature happening in the past people who are not of color were taught to be “aware or cautious” of black and brown people. In return this also is why POC are skeptical. Being able to teach younger generations is key to how they will continue through different periods of life in the future. Starting with implementing the Critical Race Theory as a mandatory lesson in school could show students not only that everyone is valuable but to treat each other with equality and respect. When teaching CRT especially to children it is important that no one is being sought as bad or good. This is a crucial educational moment in their prime learning experience to practice how to express love, care, and values among different walks of life.

Within the logistics of critical race theory is a prized message, people of color can be leaders too! This is a message I take to heart. Even though I am a leader through different positions I hold such as, Senior Class Vice President and Tennis Team Captain that is not my main source of showing guidance. As a black young woman I lead with kindness. Guidance is also given through listening and observation because it gives people an outlet to be creative. When I looked around my school there was not a space that actively made black students feel understood. I knew a way to change that was by reintroducing Black Student Union (BSU) to our school. It became a safe space for all students but especially black youth. We have the opportunity to experience events that highlight the light we bring. BSU students are also able to meet and build a rapport with black staff on campus. Due to current events we talk about and how it may affect us, staff can use that as a way to educate other students.

Through community service I help represent that people of color are constantly doing good for the community because they enjoy it. I appreciate having the opportunity to help others. Even though it is fulfilling for myself I do it for others to feel at ease. While in high school I have achieved 100+ hours of community service. But when you are cheering others on in a marathon, making the beaches cleaner, or giving warm meals to others who do not receive

them as often, is more than just completing a task. I look at it as something I was put on Earth to do and something I will continue to do because I love it.

As a black people we are often looked at as brittle and emotionless. I actively beat that stereotype by advocating for mental health. At Oxnard High School I take part in a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that specializes in Mental Health and wellbeing. In this pathway we are required to do ten community service hours a semester. As Co-President of Key Club (a community service club) at my school I exceed that amount. It is something that I enjoy taking part in and feels genuine rather than a requirement. I fulfill most of my hours at Vista Del Mar Outpatient Hospital. I do office work but I also partake in lessons as well. Being a person of color in this field of work helps me show others that no matter who you are or what you look like you deserve to be validated. Overall, I believe validation, respect, and acceptance are the most valuable lessons to learn if Critical Race Theory can be constantly incorporated into today's society.

Sincerely,

Omaree Brown