

Entry 4 Peterson Deposition

DEPOSITION SUMMARY OF ROBIN PETERSON

I am 32-years-old and have taught English for the past five years. I have a master's degree in English literature.

One area of emphasis in my literature classes is to read books that pose difficult questions about race relations in our country. A stated goal of this school is to educate our students on diversity and other social issues. My reading list reflects this. My concept of English is that it should go beyond just the classic literary works of Shakespeare or Dickens.

I have been concerned about subtle and not so subtle institutional racism at Brahmin Prep. While we talk a good game, the fact of the matter is that faculty of color don't end up sticking around very long. This is not just a random occurrence. The attitudes of this school reflect the racism of our whole society. We just can't bring ourselves to admit it. We think we are better, but we aren't.

After an announcement in 20XX-3 that several teachers of color that I greatly respect were leaving this school, I sent around an e-mail to all faculty and staff, bringing attention to this. I was intent on convening a school-wide meeting to discuss this problem.

After the receipt of my e-mail, the administration was not very happy with me. I had multiple conversations with Francis Winslow and Lynn Polonious about the subject. Ultimately, I decided that the message I was trying to get across would be drowned out by the opposition from the administration, so I withdrew the notice of the meeting. I do not believe that either Winslow or Polonious are racists. They are intelligent people who genuinely care about education. However, it is my belief that the administrative perspective has caused them to ignore the realities of institutional racism here at the school.