

# Cardinal Compositions

University of Louisville

---

## **Socially Just Pedagogy (Infographic & Writer's Memo)**

Kinsey Hattab

*Cardinal Compositions*, vol. 5 (2021), pp. 16-20.

### **For the Classroom**

1. If you are planning to become a teacher, how will you use socially just pedagogy in your classroom? If not, how might the classes you are taking now become more socially just, or how might the principles of socially just pedagogy be integrated into your future career?
2. Hattab's project is made up of an infographic and writer's memo. How does this multimodal genre affect your experience as an audience member for this project? How does reading the author's reasoning and description of their topic and creative process affect your reading of the project? How might you use multimodality in your own composition projects?

# SOCIALLY JUST PEDAGOGY

& what that looks like in the classroom

## FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO INJUSTICE



### RACE

48% of White children scored at/above the national average on assessments; only 14% of Black children did.



### GENDER

16 million girls are unlikely to ever enter school; the same is true for only 8.2 million boys.



### DISABILITY

Children with disabilities are 10x less likely to attend school than children without disabilities.



### SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

50% of high income children scored at/above national average on assessments; only 19% of low income children did.



### LANGUAGE

About 40% of the global population does not receive education in a language they speak/understand.

## + WHAT IS SOCIALLY JUST PEDAGOGY?



- Equal access & opportunities for all
- Integration of different cultures & cultural norms in the classroom
- Active deconstruction of racism, hate, oppression

## STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SOCIALLY JUST PEDAGOGY IN THE CLASSROOM



### ADDRESS ISSUES

Actively & overtly address issues of discrimination on a regular basis.



### INSTITUTIONALIZE PRACTICES

Institutionalize practices that centralize social justice to ensure that it applies to more students.



### EXAMINE RESOURCES

Examine the resources available to students; do they represent diversity?

powered by

## Socially Just Pedagogy (Infographic & Writer's Memo)

Kinsey Hattab

I chose to discuss and create an infographic about the topic of socially just pedagogy, which plays an important role in the field of education and has lasting effects outside of it. Socially just pedagogy has become a central tool across the nation and the globe as we fight for social justice. Our world continues to face issues of racism, hate, and oppression, which places a heavy reliance on school systems to become a place to fight those issues. Essentially, socially just pedagogy ensures that all students have equal access to opportunities and resources inside and outside of school. In my infographic, I discuss factors that contribute to injustice, the meaning of socially just pedagogy, and ways for teachers to implement it into their classroom and school. In order to discuss the issue effectively, I made design decisions for my infographic with maximum readability and organization in mind.

In terms of design, I made sure to use high contrast colors and a simple directional flow of information. A main goal that I focused on while designing my infographic was maintaining uniformity. In line with that goal, I organized the top section using consistent illustrations followed by eye-opening statistics revealing relevant information about the factors that contribute to injustice. In the middle section, using the same color scheme, I define socially just pedagogy using three bullet points that capture its essence. In the bottom section, I share strategies for implementing social justice work in the daily pedagogies of a classroom, again maintaining uniformity in the design and color scheme. My goal of uniformity is important to the readability of my infographic, and therefore its efficacy in informing the audience of the importance of social justice and the urgency with which schools need to pursue pedagogies that support social justice. While my infographic can be beneficial to any vast audience, I believe that it is exceptionally important for parents and educators in understanding how to conceptualize socially just pedagogy. Therefore, I made decisions about the design based on the high level of readability and the easy flow of information that I wanted in my infographic.

Another series of decisions that I had to make for my infographic included the research I conducted. Before starting my infographic, I conducted extensive research on the topic of socially just pedagogy, as well as similar topics such as culturally relevant pedagogy and multicultural education. Reading about similar topics in the field of education expanded my knowledge about teaching for social justice and provided a more concrete context for the concept of socially just pedagogy. I conducted the bulk of this research by reading several academic publications about the topic, which ensured that I was reading reliable sources. To find statistics that represent the current issue of social injustice, I used a variety of online sources, mainly with the goal of finding statistics from more recent years that maintained relevance in my infographic. Additionally, I broadened my research to include information in terms of our world as a whole, rather than focusing on just the United States. Including information only on the United States would have limited my perspective and potentially placed a bias on the information presented in my infographic. I believe that my research process ultimately added to the efficacy and reliability of my infographic and supported its organization.

In conducting my research and creating my infographic, I learned about the intersection of information literacy, community, and culture as a critical aspect of socially just pedagogy. By definition, socially just pedagogy is inclusive of various cultural and community components in a way that attempts to reduce the superiority of some populations and the marginalization of others. As a central aspect of socially just pedagogy, these three components intersect to build its backbone. Particularly, information literacy is an essential part of understanding the community and its cultural implications, and vice versa. Specifically, in terms of socially just

pedagogy, understanding issues specific to the community is critical to move forward in the pursuit of justice. Therefore, the point of intersection of these three components is necessary for the implementation of socially just pedagogy.

Upon completing this project, I have noticed a few strengths and weaknesses that have been highlighted through my work. I think a strength of mine lies in the design aspect of the infographic, where I was able to maintain uniformity and create a design that is easy to follow. I also selected a relevant topic that is important to the entire world as we work towards justice. On the other hand, I feel that I could have improved my research by spending more time on finding more recent and reliable statistics. Each of my statistics were found on a website, rather than an academic publication or an official statistics database. Additionally, I ran into an unexpected challenge of finding statistics from the past year instead of from the early 2010s. Ultimately, I included only information that I felt was supportive of my topic and that emphasized its importance.

I chose the topic of socially just pedagogy because as a future educator, I recognize the responsibility that schools have in teaching for social justice. Without socially just pedagogy, the foundation of social justice in our world is broken. In my infographic, I wanted to draw attention to that and emphasize the urgency with which socially just pedagogy should be implemented as a central tool in school systems. To achieve that, I made design decisions that helped portray those goals by providing maximum readability in terms of the colors and organization of my infographic. I also conducted my research in a way that allowed me to draw on components central to the concept of socially just pedagogy, including information literacy, community, and culture. The emphasis that schools place on social justice needs to be greater than ever to fight the oppression of some populations and the superiority of others.

## Works Cited

- Bonaparte, Joshua. "Educational Inequality (WHY, WHO, HOW)." *Inequality in Education*, 15 April 2015, <http://educationalinequalityrider.blogspot.com/2015/04/educational-inequality-whywhohow-by.html>
- Boutte, Gloria. Beyond the Illusion of Diversity: How Early Childhood Teachers Can Promote Social Justice. *The Social Studies*, Vol. 99, No. 4, 2008, pp. 165-173.
- "Language in School: If You Don't Understand, How Can You Learn." *World Education Blog*, 13 December 2017, <https://gemreportunesco.wordpress.com/2016/02/19/language-in-school-if-you-dont-understand-how-can-you-learn/>
- Michaelsen, Ann S., et al. "Teaching Gender Inequality and the Lack of Education in Developing Countries." *Connected Teaching and Learning*, 3 June 2017, <https://annmichaelsen.com/2017/03/12/teaching-gender-inequality-and-the-lack-of-education-in-developing-countries/>
- "Persons with Disabilities." *Right to Education Initiative*, <https://www.right-to-education.org/issue-page/marginalised-groups/persons-disabilities>