

4/8/22 Exit Ticket

Being quiet for the entire class period was uncomfortable. What made it uncomfortable was the reason behind it. I chose not to participate in the Day of Silence protest because I do not believe that social and/or political protests should take place at the high school level and below. I did not like that I was forced to be quiet in a classroom for a reason I was not participating in. I believe that staying quiet and having my teacher stay quiet for a whole class period is not the best use of time in the school setting. I came to school to learn and went into History class expecting to continue learning about communism vs. capitalism and what is in the lesson plan for all of the Big History classes. Instead, I was required to stay quiet, work in silence, and support a cause I chose not to participate in.

I am not a hypocritical person and what I saw today was disappointing. I saw people wearing the silence badge, yet still talking to their friends at break. In my life I stand up for what is right and just, in the eyes of God, and it is not based on race, sexual orientation, gender, or any other factor. I know what is right and stand up for what I believe without having to wear a badge or say that I support it. It is nobody's business what I choose to support and believe in. School is not the place for social and political protests and is not the appropriate place for events like this to happen.

I do believe that schools and teachers should be banned from discussing certain topics at school. It is not the teacher's place to tell students what to believe and educate children on certain topics that are considered sensitive and private, such as sexual orientation. Every parent and family has different thoughts on what they want to tell their children and when they want to tell them. It is the parent's job to educate their children on political and social issues the way they want it to be taught, not the way the schools want to teach it. Schools should teach facts, not opinion, and with those facts, encourage students to form their own opinion without the teacher or school's influence. Children should be taught real history, real english, real subjects based on facts and reality. They should not be taught, manipulated or skewed information to fit what schools want young children to learn.

The TED Talk we watched in class today does not relate to the new bill in Florida. The bill states, and I quote, *"Requires district school boards to adopt procedures that comport with certain provisions of law for notifying student's parent of specified information; requires such procedures to reinforce fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding upbringing & control of their children; prohibits school district from adopting procedures or student support forms that prohibit school district personnel from notifying parent about specified information or that encourage student to withhold from parent such information; prohibits school district personnel from discouraging or prohibiting parental notification & involvement in critical decisions affecting student's mental, emotional, or physical well-being; prohibits classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels; requires school districts to notify parents of healthcare services; authorizes parent to bring action against school district to obtain declaratory judgment; provides for additional award of injunctive relief, damages, & reasonable attorney fees & court costs to certain parents."*

Nowhere does this bill state that students aren't allowed to say Gay or talk about the LGBTQ community. It prohibits schools from having led discussions about, and teaching students about, sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels, below middle

school. The Florida bill also says that school districts must communicate with parents about specific information talked about at school. It says that parents have the right to make decisions about the well-being of their children and have the right to be involved and discuss certain things with their children at home, without the influence of the school, and schools interfering with that can affect a student's mental, emotional, or physical well-being.

The Day of Silence happening in schools goes against this bill. I understand that this is a Florida bill and we do not live in Florida, but the Day of Silence is being led and encouraged by schools for students and teachers who choose to participate. If students choose to participate in the Day of Silence, that is their choice and no one can stop them. However, school lesson plans and activities should not be changed to fit this protest. We go to school every day to learn and altering an 80 minute class period to learn about something that doesn't even relate to the topic we have been learning about is unexceptable. I am not opposed to people participating in this protest and schools acknowledging it, but I don't think that schools should formally be involved in the protest.