

Introduction

Part Three consists mainly of the materials that the W.E.B. DuBois Learning Center sends out upon request from people who are interested in setting up similar programs. The key component is the “How To” section. “The Model” is an essay on the Learning Center that was written in 1978, after we had been operating for five years. It was felt then that we should explain the program to interested persons and to document what all went into its establishment. We include it here essentially for historical purposes.

We developed the matrix to provide parents (and students) with a one sheet guide to help them plan for a “quality education.” We place quality education in quotes because everyone says that that is what they believe in, but when you get right down to specifics, people are not very clear as to what it is they should insist on. What we did was to present courses upon which there was absolutely no disagreement. For example, if a high school graduate does not have two years of mathematics, including a one year course in algebra and one year course in either geometry or advanced algebra and trigonometry, then that graduate does not have a quality education, no matter what school he/she graduated from. IF this seems harsh, it is meant to. There is no need in us fooling ourselves. As on Cornel Perry, Sr., a member of our mathematics staff, often says, “You can do to school and graduate, or you can go to school land get an education.” There are similar courses in the natural sciences, the social sciences and the language arts that are absolutely essential to ensure a quality education. These are fundamental. Naturally we are all for the enrichment courses and those courses designed to produce some positive acculturation, but the essential courses we refer to are the ones necessary upon which to build any semblance of quality education.

There are several books lists that are available and promoted. However, over the years we have found that there are a few books that are essential to Afro-centric studies that contain information upon which any in depth study rests. These are included in the book list that we offer here. The reason we do not include an extensive list is because if one has not read the books we suggest or some equivalent to them, then one’s understanding is somewhat incomplete; and if these books are read and one is not inspired to read further then there simply is no use listing any more books. We are speaking here primarily of neophytes to Afro-centric studies. And in addition, they

will receive plenty of support from the many people who are more than willing to help them.

A personal note:

I have even narrowed this list down to two books: *Destruction of Black Civilization* or *Introduction to African Civilization*, and *Before the Mayflower*. When a person has read these books or their equivalent, then they are serious enough for further discussion.

LD, Jr.