

To whom it may concern,

My name is Qualiyah Hunter. I am a 17 year old African American student at David Douglas High School enrolled in black studies.

I think it's important for all Oregon students to take an ethnic studies classes because, not only is it important for students to know their own history but also the history of the people around them.

I have really enjoyed my time in my black studies class because I was able to meet with other black students at David Douglas, but I also got to connect with other black students on things we see everyday. This class opened my eyes to a lot of issues we rarely speak about in school because of how uncomfortable it could make people feel, but that was my favorite part because after being able to get past being uncomfortable you're able to learn so much that you didn't know about. I also really enjoyed this class because in most cases it seems like we always focus on the tragedy and the bad that has happened to the black community and in this class we are able to learn about all the great things the black community has done. This class has made me feel comfortable when talking about the black community in school because in my regular english classes it felt uncomfortable and felt like eyes were on me.

Overall Black Studies has taught me a lot and opened my eyes to everything, and it also taught me to always ask questions and do my research. And to always be grateful for the life I have now because lots of people lost their lives, went through so much trauma just so other black people/ kids could live in a society that welcomes us and wants to see us thrive and become our best selves.

Sincerely,  
Qualiyah Hunter