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TESOL EDUC 425.02

## Assignment 2 - Education Revolution

Nadia Lopez, the founding principal of Mott Hall Bridges Academy, stood out to me in this collection of TED speakers. I learned that this woman saw something wrong with how members of the education community treated students of color. So she did something about it by starting her own school that saw these students for the complex individuals they are.

Something that left an impact on me: that the school-to-prison pipeline happens more often to students of color because of implicit bias amongst faculty and staff. Growing up, I did notice that students of color (particularly black and brown) were sent to the principal's office more often than white and Asian students. I've seen this from K-12. I have often wondered why "those people" had behavioral problems and couldn't just be compliant with the teacher. I did not consider my classmates' character nor their situation. Today, while working in an education setting, I did notice that a homogenous classroom of all white students still had some kids who couldn't be compliant with the teacher. Yet, they weren't treated like they were "future criminals." They were treated like people who needed extra guidance and patience.

I'd like to focus on exploring effective methods of getting a student engaged with their classroom learning. I want to figure out for each individual how to make them care about education. I was once told that maybe a particular student who is acting up, probably needs a little more kindness. Perhaps, more understanding. That student could be tired, or unchallenged. There are multiple factors. Culture adds a whole other layer to figuring out that student's need. This is the kind of work that doesn't happen overnight. Cultural perspectives must be learned in order to effectively figure out a student's best chance for success.