

Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis

ISSN: 2325-1204. Journal homepage: <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/jctp/>

Volume 10, Issue 2, 2021, Article 8, <https://doi.org/10.31274/jctp.11627>

Egalitarian Education: Playing the Game of Equality in a Stratified Society

Josephine Amoakoh, *The University of Utah*

Recommended Citation

Amoakoh, J. (2021). Egalitarian education: Playing the game of equality in a stratified society. *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis* 10(2), Article 8. <https://doi.org/10.31274/jctp.11627>

Copyright and Open Access

© 2021 Josephine Amoakoh



This article is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial \(CC BY-NC\) 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits any sharing and adaptation of the article, as long as the original author(s) and source are credited and the article is used for non-commercial purposes.

The *Journal of Critical Thought and Praxis* is published by the Iowa State University Digital Press (<https://press.lib.iastate.edu>) and the Iowa State University School of Education (<https://www.education.iastate.edu>)

Egalitarian Education: Playing the Game of Equality in a Stratified Society

Josephine Amoakoh
University of Utah

The Woes of An American Teacher

At the crossroads

Old springs of knowledge haunting, pressuring, threatening

Stratify them! Cast them! Into achievers, non-achievers! High skill, Low skill

Then come new breaks of songs, pedagogies, technologies, new ethos stuff, new situated
practices, Discourses, figured worlds, proclaiming!

Equal chances for all! Brown versus Board!!

A flash of pedagogies culturally sustaining, smothered with discourses on critical framing
and transformed practices!

A vision of assessments, pouring in like a flood of living texts, standardized tests

My principal in a dream, pulling my purse and whispering in my ears

Test scores, bubble students, teach to the test!

At the crossroads, my head turning, my heart yearning

In my right hand, I see equal chances for all, and my left, I see an exploded grenade of
tests, tearing students into tracks of high and low!

Oh, I thirst from these visions and flashes

Let me drink from the cup of social justice! All the challenges, all the victories!

Lumps of equity and equality scratch my throat

It is bitter and sweet

But the aftertaste is enlightening

A taste of empowerment and liberation

From the crossroads I arrive, at the door of the classroom

Drenched in the sweat from visions of injustice

Gorged with thoughts of equity and equality

From Arizona to Wyoming

Let the school bells ring!

Author Note

Josephine Amoakah, Ph.D., is an associate instructor at the Ethnic Studies Department of the University of Utah and a member of the Equity and Diversity outreach team of the Granite School District in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her research interest includes social justice in education with an emphasis on critical language and culturally sustaining pedagogies and equity and diversity in education.