



FOIA Request - 1619 Project Curriculum

Vince Espi <news@news.locallabs.com>
To: sbuslik@norridge80.net

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 2:22 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of LocalLabs which is an online publication that reports on and informs the public about local government activities. If you are not the FOIA officer please forward it to the FOIA officer or reply to this email with the correct FOIA contact.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic records (preferably non-PDF such as CSV, Excel) of the following:

- A list of all materials in your district that fall under the 1619 project.

For reference, the 1619 project contains works with the following titles and authors: "America Wasn't a Democracy Until Black Americans Made It One", essay by Nikole Hannah-Jones

- "American Capitalism Is Brutal. You Can Trace That to the Plantation", essay by Matthew Desmond
- "How False Beliefs in Physical Racial Difference Still Live in Medicine Today", essay by Linda Villarosa
- "What the Reactionary Politics of 2019 Owe to the Politics of Slavery", essay by Jamelle Bouie
- "Why Is Everyone Always Stealing Black Music?", essay by Wesley Morris
- "How Segregation Caused Your Traffic Jam", essay by Kevin Kruse
- "Why Doesn't America Have Universal Healthcare? One Word: Race", essay by Jeneen Interlandi
- "Why American Prisons Owe Their Cruelty to Slavery", essay by Bryan Stevenson
- "The Barbaric History of Sugar in America", essay by Khalil Gibran Muhammad
- "How America's Vast Racial Wealth Gap Grew: By Plunder", essay by Trymaine Lee
- "Their Ancestors Were Enslaved by Law. Now They're Lawyers", photo essay by Djeneba Aduayom, with text from Nikole Hannah-Jones and Wadzanai Mhute
- "A New Literary Timeline of African-American History", a collection of original poems and stories
 - Clint Smith on the Middle Passage
 - Yusef Komunyakaa on Crispus Attucks
 - Eve L. Ewing on Phillis Wheatley
 - Reginald Dwayne Betts on the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793
 - Barry Jenkins on Gabriel's Rebellion
 - Jesmyn Ward on the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves
 - Tyehimba Jess on Black Seminoles
 - Darryl Pinckney on the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863
 - ZZ Packer on the New Orleans massacre of 1866
 - Yaa Gyasi on the Tuskegee syphilis experiment
 - Jacqueline Woodson on Sgt. Isaac Woodard
 - Joshua Bennett on the Black Panther Party
 - Lynn Nottage on the birth of hip-hop
 - Kiese Laymon on the Rev. Jesse Jackson's "rainbow coalition" speech
 - Clint Smith on the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina
- A list of all books written by authors Ibram X. Kendi (aka Henry Rogers) or Robin DiAngelo that are used in curriculum or libraries in your school district.

The purpose of the request is to access and disseminate information as a matter of public interest and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. I qualify as media under the definition in Section 2 (c-10) ("Commercial purpose"), Section 2 (f) ("News media"), Section 2 (g) ("Recurrent requester"), and Section 2 (h) ("Voluminous request") of the Freedom of Information Act, for the purposes of being exempt to the provisions of Section 3.1 (Requests for commercial purposes), Section 3.2 (Recurrent requesters), Section 3.6 (Voluminous requests), and Section 6 (Authority to charge fees). Therefore, I request you furnish any responsive documents and items without charge.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance. Please let me know if you have questions.

Vince Espi

LocalLabs



FOIA

S Buslik <sbuslik@norridge80.net>
To: news@news.locallabs.com

Thu, Oct 14, 2021 at 9:51 AM

Mr. Espi,

This email is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request dated September 29, 2021. You requested the following:

- A list of all materials in your district that fall under the 1619 project.
- A list of all books written by authors Ibram X. Kendi (aka Henry Rogers) or Robin DiAngelo that are used in curriculum or libraries in your school.

We have not formally adopted any curriculum regarding the 1619 Project. We will review our current curriculum with this subject matter after the Illinois State Board of Education releases the standards that are being developed for this curricular subject.

We currently do not have any of the material listed in our libraries.

Materials pertaining to the 1619 Project would certainly be available to our students by simply conducting an online search for materials under the topic of the 1619 Project.

You have a right to have the denial of your request reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Attorney General, 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd /street
Springfield, IL 62706
Fax: 217-782-1396
email: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

You also have a right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court, 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter, 5 ILCS 140/9(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sarah Buslik
FOIA Officer