

# Learner Series: Moving Toward Change

## Series 6 | Video 1 | Reflection

### Understand Your Community

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### Purpose

In this video, Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz discusses the importance of teachers having historical literacy about the communities surrounding the schools they work in, along with a deep understanding of the people and strengths of their local community. Sealey-Ruiz reminds listeners that each community has a rich and long history that should be examined, including principals and teachers who came before.

### Background

Every community has a story to tell. But too often teachers are working in communities where they know very little about the rich history that it holds and the people who live there. It's imperative that teachers gain a deep understanding about the community surrounding their school building so they can better understand the students and families they work with. In addition, the beauty and richness of the community can serve as an additional teacher and provide children with opportunities to see the beauty and assets that every community has to offer, especially their own.

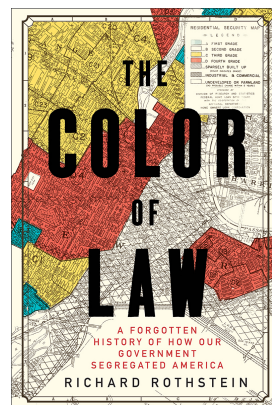
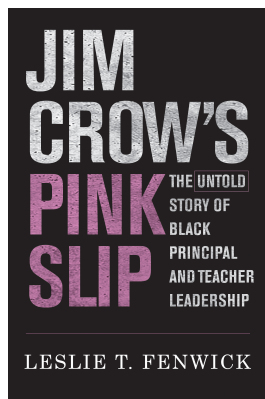
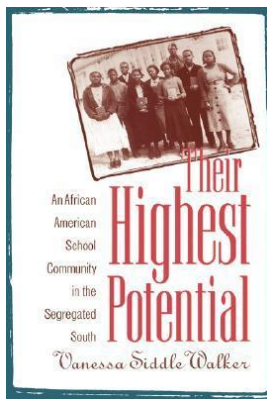
### Reflections

Think of a school in your community or a neighboring community. List several assets that the community has to offer.

What do you know about the demographics of the school? What racial/ethnic background do the teachers come from? Does it match the racial/ethnic makeup of the student body and their families? Why is this important?

How does the school partner with the local community? What possibilities exist for the local community to be a bigger part of the learning experiences taking place in school? How can the notion of school be re-imagined to bring more learning out into the community?

## Extended Connections



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## References

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