

Learner Series: Opportunity to Access

Series 7 | Video 4 | Reflection

The Myth of Meritocracy

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Purpose

In this video, Yoshimoto-Towery and Winkfield introduce the myth of meritocracy. This myth is centered on the idea that, even with life's obstacles, students can overcome those challenges and be successful. However, this is fundamentally flawed. As Winkfield says, "We need to work even more tirelessly so that story doesn't become so noteworthy that it becomes part of a pattern that is predictable year after year. That is our work, and until that happens, we have to keep trying."

Background

Historically, our country and educational system have put an emphasis on the success of the individual. If one person can overcome the odds and rise above their predicament, everyone can. This way of thinking can be detrimental to the work being done across the country because it erases the barriers and impacts of systemic racism. Our students should be succeeding because of the support they received, not despite the support they did not receive.

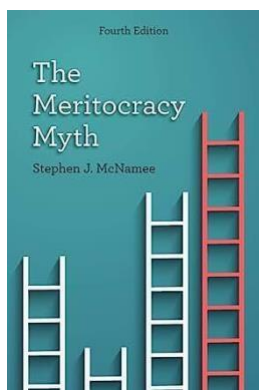
Reflections

How has the belief in the meritocracy myth influenced your educational journey and achievements?

In what ways does the myth of meritocracy contribute to disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes for different groups of students?

Reflect on examples or instances in which you've observed or experienced the myth of meritocracy being challenged or reinforced within the educational system. How did these experiences shape your perspective on achievement in education?

Extended Connections



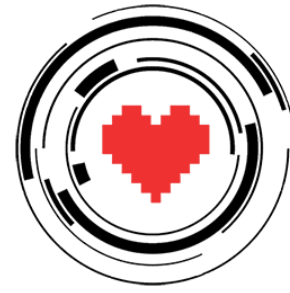
The Meritocracy Myth
Stephan J. McNamee



Toppling the Myth of Meritocracy
Michael J Sandel – The Harvard Gazette



The Myth of Meritocracy: Who really gets what they deserve?
Kwame Anthony Appiah – The Guardian



*A belief in meritocracy is not only false:
it's bad for you –*
humanrestorationproject.org