

This practice brief addresses a critical educational concern: the alarming decline of Black male students in higher education. It aims to highlight the significance of this issue while reviewing both the obstacles impeding progress and potential solutions to combat this challenge. This brief is undoubtedly essential and deserves publication, provided the author(s) address the following feedback. While the comments are not listed in any particular order, the primary concern relates to the need for enhanced clarity in the focus and improved structure and organization throughout the paper, including its literature review with clearly defined topics and sub-topics. Additionally, consider addressing specific comments presented throughout the paper. The different color selection is not intended for the authors to consider. They were meant to assist the reviewer.

Unclear Focus

The title of the paper is strong and relevant, yet the central focus lacks clarity. Is it centered on creating a sense of belonging? Creating equitable learning opportunities? Barriers hindering Black male students? Black males face unique challenges, systemic barriers, obstacles and solutions To sharpen the paper's focus, it is crucial to enhance the organization of the literature review section. Consider using the examples of structure provided below to guide your revisions. This will significantly strengthen the overall impact of your argument.

K-12 and Higher ed-related challenges should be organized, and the focus should be on barriers in higher ed (to match the topic of the paper)

The discussions surrounding the challenges faced by Black students are grounded in extensive literature and firsthand accounts from K-12 settings. However, it is crucial to focus on the specific barriers and obstacles they encounter in higher education (as indicated on the title of the paper). Thus, add/review specific barriers, factors, and challenges experienced by Black students in higher education. You may emphasize the lack of role-models, e.g., Black (male) faculty members, negative racial stereotypes and prejudice, stereotype threat, imposter syndrome, tokenism/isolation and loneliness, colorblind racism, and related specific systemic barriers.

Include more recent literature

Several literature are dated. Authors are encouraged to add more contemporary and recent literature to establish that the issue persisted across historical times.

Improve the organization of the literature review

To improve the focus of the brief. For instance, it would be much clearer if the literature review section is structured as follows:

INTRODUCTION

The title of the paper is compelling and promising; however, the central focus could be more clearly articulated. It appears to address the troubling trend of declining enrollment among young Black men at higher education institutions, yet the argument lacks robust supporting evidence. To effectively convey the gravity of this issue, the authors must present clear data and statistics that illustrate the problem's scope. Specifically, it would be beneficial to provide numerical comparisons—what were the enrollment percentages

before the decline, what are they now, and over which time frame did this change occur? Merely citing a decrease, without substantial backing, undermines the argument's strength. Overall, the paper should demonstrate if there is a decline, the major factors contributing to this decline, and solution ideas and strategies to address such a problem.

CHALLENGES FACED BY BLACK STUDENTS IN EDUCATION

- ⇒ Systemic racism
- ⇒ Colorblind racism
- ⇒ Microaggression
- ⇒ sense of belonging
- ⇒ Lack role models
- ⇒ Stereotypes threat/of inferiority and misperceptions/misjudgments
- ⇒ Tokenism/isolation
- ⇒ Imposter syndrome
- ⇒ Inequity/disproportionate access, inequality
- ⇒ -Deficit narratives/views: focusing on what is wrong with children of color
- ⇒ Historical mindset that Black people do not succeed in education; - consistent questioning about their intellect
- ⇒ Racial injustices and prejudices
- ⇒ Dehumanizing experiences
- ⇒ Expulsion and the juvenile system, perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline
- ⇒ Harsh disciplinary actions
- ⇒ Affirmative Action admissions or sports scholarship recipients
- ⇒ Mental, psychological, and emotional health, anxieties and hypervigilance

Challenges Faced at K-12

- ⇒ Expulsion and the juvenile system, perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline
- ⇒ Harsh disciplinary actions

Challenges Faced at Higher Education/ Unique Challenges Faced by Black Men on College Campuses

- ⇒ Lack of sense of belonging
- ⇒ Affirmative Action admissions or sports scholarship recipients

Gift or Curse for Young Black Boys

Mental Health for Black Males Attending College

EQUITY IN EDUCATION FOR BLACK MALE STUDENTS

SOLUTIONS (to address the declining enrollment of young Black men at HEIs)

- ***Critical Race Theory and Higher Education:***

-Discuss the role of CRT, the African American male theory, and the community cultural wealth theory in helping address such challenges.

- ***Benefits of culturally responsive pedagogy:***

-Discuss insufficient training in culturally responsive teaching, the need for cultural

competence and sensitivity, and the role of *culturally responsive pedagogy in addressing such challenges*.

- **HBCUs:**

-Any best practice that can be extracted/transferred from HBCUs to help the experiences of Black students in PWIs...

Focus on this and list examples of these unique challenges Black men face in the body of the paper.

Cite and provide some statistics that show so.

The authors seem to largely rely up on the data and literature from highschool to make the case about high ed. There needs to be more lit review on the data, statistics and factors/experience of Black students in higher ed in general, and with the focus on Black males in higher ed.

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White and Black are almost equal here. Establish and demonstrate that the enrollment of Black male are declining. This is not supported by evidence yet. The authors should establish the existence of the problem and magnitude via evidence: citations.

The challenges listed here holds true for all Black student, including women. Also list challenges specific to Black males since it is the focus of the paper.

The authors can list specific barriers (if any) similar to: “expulsion and the juvenile system, perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline ”

HBCU doesn't need the whole paragraph. It diverts attention. It can simply be mentioned in couple sentences that address their historical emergence and how they are beneficial for Black students compared to PWIs.

Consider reviewing Halkiyo, A. B., & Hailu, M. F. (2023). Black women's placemaking in undergraduate engineering. *Journal of Engineering Education*, 112(4), 918-937.