The purpose of this study was to investigate the educational experiences of African/African ancestry students in Santa Clara County, CA.

The research was conducted using Tillman’s Culturally Sensitive Research Framework: culturally congruent research methods, culturally specific knowledge, cultural resistance to theoretical dominance, culturally sensitive data interpretations, and culturally informed theory and practice.

This research is culturally sensitive because it uses the cultural standpoints of both the research participants and the researchers as a framework for the research design, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation, as well as reporting back to the community (dissemination of the findings).

**INQUIRY DOMAIN I**

**African/African Ancestry Community Members’ Definition(s) of Quality Education**

**What the Assessment Tells Us**

- Some members of the community hold assimilationist views. Others value cultural affirmation. These are differing responses to the cultural dislocation of mis-education and white supremacy racism.

- There is no single story or definition of quality education or belief about students’ access to quality education. The various definitions of quality education range from one that is totally focused on achieving academic qualifications that allow for career goals to be achieved to one that is also culturally centered in African ideals, traditions, and history and allow for individual understanding and appreciation of self as a strong, valuable individual in society.

- In all of the instances the definitions and beliefs relate to community and parent involvement in the education process, and the valuing of Black educators, administrators and parents’ roles in the creation of a collective that benefits AA students’ academic, cultural, social, and psychological development and well-being.

- Stage in career, educational and personal experiences, and status in the community play an integral part in the adult participants’ definitions and beliefs.

Joyce E. King, Ph.D.
Linda C. Tillman, Ph.D.

What do you think the Cartoonist is saying here? Do you agree?