

### **Student 1 Reflection**

The benefit of including The 1619 Project into the curriculum is that it shows the true story and voices of African American History. It shows how they fought for freedom and democracy and created a new culture that the system was so desperately trying to destroy and oppress. This material becomes a voice for black history and brings diversity to the history we are taught in school. Every culture needs a voice and representation in American History that is taught in school.

The personal connection I have to The 1619 Project lessons is the Black Renaissance. It shows how Black people got tired and resisted the southern Jim Crow laws. Many southern Blacks made a decision to leave and move north and west to look for better jobs and opportunities, this was known as the Great Migration. Millions of Black people left the South to the North in search of jobs and a taste of freedom that they would never have had in the deep segregated South. When they moved to places like New York City, they brought their culture and identity with them to create new music, art, and dance that would forever impact Urban America.

The new information I learned from the 1619 lessons was the “seasoning effect” that was done to Black people. Enslavers would beat or threaten Black people that were using their native language and taught them new religions to keep them in check. They didn’t want them to have any culture or identity.

My favorite part about the 1619 lessons is learning how every time African Americans were suppressed, they continued to survive and found new ways to bring their culture and how they act to new levels of achievement. I am proud to learn about my ancestors and all their contributions. This is Black Excellence!

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### **Student 2 Reflection**

The benefit of learning about the year 1619 was being able to learn more about African American history. We were able to learn how they fought and lived everyday to make a change. When people mention slavery, they just say it continued for many years and over time it ended. We were able to understand the true depths of what happened starting in 1619. We learned that African Americans had to really work hard for their freedom and set up a way of life for future generations. For so long African Americans have been associated with just slavery. No one talks about how they stood up for what was right and even though people still tried to tear them down they kept going. They made so many contributions to America and formed it into what it is now. That is why many African Americans should have pride in America because as a whole, we are the people who gave up so much for America and we contributed our lives to this nation. So, when we learn about this it gives us a voice and it shows us how much we have done for society. As a Black person learning about this, I was in shock learning everything that happened because many parts of it are left out of what we learn in school.

I was able to make a personal connection as an African American person because it’s not like I’m learning about a different race. I’m learning about my culture, how strong we really are, and all the contributions made by my ancestors. African Americans are so much more than just slavery. Our voice and story has been left out for too many years.

As far as new information to me personally everything was new. We never talked about African American history this much. Yeah, we heard about slavery and how it was bad, but no one ever talked about the good. Other teachers never taught us the contributions African Americans made and they never taught us how my America was shaped by my African ancestors. It was amazing to see the connections in my culture and reasons

why we do what we do. Like music and dance are so important to African American culture and that was created in 1619 when my ancestors were still enslaved.

My favorite part was learning about the Harlem Renaissance, otherwise known as the Black Renaissance. It was my favorite because of all the music. They had the blues, jazz and so much more. When people hear jazz, they dance and are happy. They feel the rhythm. They get into their own little world. So, when I listen to the blues, I have such a good time. Louis Armstrong is an amazing trumpeter and singer. He has an angelic voice, and his singing is very soothing.

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### **Student 3 Reflection**

The benefit to this type of material being added to the Curriculum is that more people can find out more information about some of the past things that have happened in African American culture, and it helps give African Americans a voice in history. History should have multiple voices represented in the curriculum.

I felt a personal connection when we started talking about some of the music genres our culture created, mainly because I sometimes listen to some of them. I can see a connection in modern day music to Hip Hop and R & B.

I found out that African Americans contributed a lot to American History such as building railroads, picking/growing cotton, traveling up north to help export trading goods, and we made new genres of music but never got any recognition for it.

My favorite part was when we started talking about how Nikole Hannah-Jones never understood why her dad had so much pride in the American flag, but when she grew up and learned her ancestor's history, she found out why her father appreciated the American flag so much and why he always kept it intact. Because African Americans fought harder than anyone else for the American Dream and Promise "Life, Liberty, and Happiness".

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### **Student 4 Reflection**

The 1619 Project lessons benefit Black people by giving them a voice. It also gives other races a voice and a platform for those that couldn't speak for themselves.

In 1619, my culture was created and African American identity and culture started. African American people have gotten very little credit for what they built and contributed to American History. Therefore, they fought for their freedom and liberties because they weren't being treated fairly in society. It's important that all Americans feel represented in history.

A connection that I have with the 1619 Project is that I am African American and I too have to face the world because of my skin color. And my ancestors have contributed to this country's history too.

My favorite part of these lessons is learning that my culture and identity as an African American started in 1619. As a race, we are also American and our story deserves to be heard and appreciated.

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**Student 5 Reflection**

This material aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of African Americans at the very center of the United States. During this time, they used their voice to bring to our history and a whole new culture was created as they fought so hard to have rights.

The Great Migration was a personal connection because it created black intellectual and artistic expression and I feel empathetic towards them wanting to leave to get better treatment, life, opportunities, and jobs.

I learned African Americans forged their own culture, contributed to America a lot, and they acted out of self-determination.

African Americans created their own culture by creating jazz, blues, gospel, hip-hop, and black slang. They contributed fashion, the justice movements, dances, and soul food. Despite everything they were resilient, able to adapt, and to make things beautiful again and again.