

Alexis (Lex) Hunter
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Research Abstract

My research is how memes can be utilized in classroom spaces; particularly in high school. When connected to rich histories of graffiti and political cartooning in Black communities, the creation of memes becomes a process of empowerment, and the sharing of memes becomes a way to “tag”, disrupt and transform consciousness on social issues. This research offers important historical grounding for educators who hope to make connections between contemporary online activism and art foundations. As a Secondary Language Arts Education major this work is particularly important because it disrupts the literary canon and provide more relevant texts for students to engage with. Non-traditional texts are particularly effective when paired with canonical texts because it allows for students to make connections. Also, these texts are more inclusive for students than texts from the literacy canon.