

Words From Prominent Educators

For educators and others who are interested in finding ways to engage young people in writing, reflecting and critically analyzing literature, media and their lived experiences, this book will be an invaluable resource. *Why Did This Happen* is a practical, insightful and accessible guide that will prove particularly relevant to those who work with students in urban schools and communities.

Pedro Noguera Ph.D.

*Peter L. Agnew Professor of Education
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Development
New York University*

We can't lose one child, not one. And looking at the success of what you've done with this organization is amazing. I thank The Brotherhood/Sister Sol of having commitments to both the hood and the soul.

Charles J. Ogletree Esq.

*Jesse Climenko Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
(on being honored by The Brotherhood/Sister Sol)*

In the middle of one of the poorest and most drug-infested neighborhoods in New York City, youth that join The Brotherhood/Sister Sol family learn about respect, responsibility, choices, and the importance of community involvement. They build positive peer relationships, gain self-confidence, and develop leadership skills. The Brotherhood/Sister Sol encourages members to think about and focus on making decisions that have positive consequences.

Santiago Taveras

*Former Deputy Chancellor, New York City
Department of Education*

What The Brotherhood/Sister Sol is doing is not just rescuing Black kids who live in Harlem. It's helping to rescue the soul of the United States because we have failed to come to terms with the legacy of slavery and its aftermath. They are investing in our collective future.

Lani Guinier Esq.

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Young people want what we all want—respect and love, the opportunity to be heard, engagement in meaningful work, safety, and community. Through compelling anecdotes and students' voices, numerous examples and exemplars, and clear, straightforward guidelines, *Why Did This Happen* offers a rich collection of activities, strategies, and lessons. Any educator invested in creating welcoming and supportive learning environments that honor the lived experiences of young people of color, and provide a space for them to share their stories, build connections, and reveal their gifts, will find not only an instructional roadmap, but a moral compass for working with Black and Latino/a students as if they matter.

A. Lin Goodwin Ed.D.

*Professor of Education & Associate Dean for Teacher Education
Teachers College, Columbia University*

A stellar resource for educators and community-based organizations looking for strategies, models, and specific examples to positively engage African-American and Latino youth in order to ensure academic and life success. *Why Did This Happen* is . . . a must read for all who are involved in adolescent development, the work to close the achievement gap, and the work to improve the quality and depth of teaching and learning for all young people.

Reverend Alfonso Wyatt

Vice President, Fund for the City of New York

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Sabrina King Ed.D.

*Chief Academic Officer
New York City Department of Education*