

The American Educational Research Association (AERA), with the support of the International Literacy Association (ILA), is sponsoring a writing project related to the theme of the 2024 AERA Annual Conference: "Dismantling Racial Injustice and Constructing Educational Possibilities: A Call to Action."

The initiative centers on asking students in kindergarten through grade 12 how they feel about diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice to gain unique insights into the school environment.

Between November 1, 2023, and February 16, 2024, school-based educators are invited to submit student responses to one of the following five prompts (which can be rephrased based on age level) for potential inclusion in a session at the 2024 AERA conference:

1. **Fairness:** What does fairness mean to you? Can you share a time when things felt fair or unfair at school? How did it make you feel? How do you contribute to making school a place where fairness is supported?
2. **Safe and Brave:** Do you feel safe and brave at school? What makes you feel that way? Can you draw or describe an example where you felt safe and/or brave in school? Who are the people around you that help you feel safe and brave? What exactly do they do to help you feel that way?
3. **Belonging:** Can you share a special time at school where you felt like you belonged? Why do some students feel like they don't belong? What can you do to help other students feel like they belong? What else could the school do to make everyone feel connected?
4. **Representation:** Do you see people who are like you in books or lessons at school? Why do you think it's important to see yourself in what you learn? What would you like to see more of?
5. **Familiarity:** Think about a book or story you've read that felt familiar or spoke to your experiences. Why was it meaningful to you? Are there books or stories you wish were in the school library? Why?

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Educators may submit students' responses through the official [electronic entry form](#).

All student work must be uploaded in a PDF format (preferred) or Word document.

Educators may combine multiple student responses to the same prompt in one file *provided that* each response appears on its own page along with the following information:

- First name and last initial of student
- Age of student
- Grade level of student
- City and state of school

Educators will be notified by March 6, 2024, if one or more of the submitted responses will be included in a session.

## ELIGIBILITY AND TIMELINE

- Open to students in kindergarten through grade 12
- Each student response may not exceed 1,000 words.
- All responses must be submitted by an educator or other school representative.
- All educator submissions must be received by February 16, 2024.
- Educators will be notified by March 6, 2024, if a student response has been selected.