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Critical Pedagogy and The Politics of Disposability

Summary

As one who has never pulled a trigger on a gun I am strongly opposed to gun violence and I am a proponent for strict gun controls. However, I have also long known that gun control is not the solution for (un) making violence in the United States of America. In this paper I will use primarily literature research and my own context of experience to argue that what Henry A. Giroux calls the politics of disposability is a major contributor to the violence we experience in the United States. Furthermore, I will argue that critical pedagogy is an educational and religious asset that can make a difference in the (un) making of violence in the United States.

Major Concepts and issues

The major issue this paper addresses is the violence on the most vulnerable of society. I am particularly concerned in this arena about the violence toward youth; however, poor minorities, immigrants, the disabled, and others also fall within the realm of the concept of being disposable.

1. I will also explore how the American culture in general is violent against the most vulnerable of society. In this area I will call up on the research of Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund to discuss the cradle to prison pipeline and how the economy of America continues to feed this pipeline.
2. I will examine educational policy and show how it contributes to the politics of disposability.

Methodology

In this paper I will address the topic mainly through literature research, however, most of my research will come from the class on Critical Pedagogy I taught at my seminary in the fall of 2013. The major approach will be the use of critical social consciousness and how we as educators help others to use this concept for personal and corporate liberation.

Sources

I will use the work of Henry A. Giroux. Additionally, I will use Paulo Freire and drawing from the wealth of knowledge found in the book *Critical Pedagogy (Where Are We Now?)* edited by Peter McLaren and Joe L. Kincheloe.