

Understanding the Role of Popular Culture in Secondary Title I Teachers' Instruction

Two questions framed the research:

- How do secondary language arts teachers in predominantly African-American Title I schools view the use of popular culture as pedagogy?
- How do secondary language arts teachers in predominantly African-American Title I schools use popular culture in their classrooms?

Findings

- Popular culture is an appropriate supplement if it is relevant to the curriculum.
- English teachers use popular culture in ways suggested over two decades ago.

Table 1. Site demographics

School	Population	African American	Free/Reduced Lunch
College Prep	660	98%	86%
Community High	1,141	87%	84%

Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement website

Implications:

Grant funding is required in order to develop and present online professional development introducing contemporary methods for using popular culture as a way that can increase and shift adolescents' literacy.

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