

# That's Why I Teach: It is My Duty to be Critical

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## ABSTRACT

This paper examines the importance of being critical as a pedagogical approach for educational liberation. Padilla discusses using the work of Willie Colon and other thinkers in his teachings because of the intellectual contributions that critical thinking has on student learning. This piece is theoretical in nature and centers on the importance of teaching students to be critical as part of their intellectual development. Padilla outlines the social injustices that Latinos face as a working class, in academia, and in impoverished situations. His goal is to liberate the minds of students from mainstream teachings and expand their understanding of the world. His view is that students are to be challenged to develop critical thinking skills, and keeping teachings neutral is a disservice to students. Padilla concludes his essay by summarizing why he is a liberating educator focused on continuously serving the Latino community through his teaching because this is the way to combat social injustices.