

**From:** Jeff Scheur <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 6/19/2020 3:49:49 PM  
**To:** Josiah Holland <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Finding the right words when it matters

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**WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL** - Do not click on links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Josiah,

If you've found yourself searching for words recently, you're not alone.

In the midst of ongoing national protests against police brutality, racial injustice, and structural inequities, many have struggled to find the language to express their anguish, fear, and exhaustion. Many aren't sure what to say or how to say it, and yet productive dialogue is sorely needed in order for us to heal and progress as a nation.

At NoRedInk, we feel the heartache of the many Black students, teachers, and administrators who use NoRedInk, as well as our colleagues, friends, and families, for whom discussions about these topics are deeply personal. We unequivocally condemn racism, senseless violence, and oppression against Black communities.

In difficult and uncertain times, students look to their teachers for support, clarity, and guidance. And right now, helping kids find the right words to navigate their own thoughts and feelings is of the utmost importance.

On this Juneteenth, we're sharing [a set of prompts](#) that summer school teachers can use to help their students continue to navigate issues of race, identity, oppression, and protests of injustice, past and present. Next school year, you will see additional writing prompts in our curriculum library and a series of texts designed to:

- Engage students to think critically about race, racism, and systemic oppression
- Amplify and celebrate the voices of Black authors and other authors of color
- Invite students to reflect on the role they and others can play in combating inequality and engaging in productive dialogue with those around them

We know that the education system we operate within is also not immune to inequities, and your work in helping students to reflect, learn, and communicate is as vital as it's ever been. NoRedInk is firmly committed to helping you give every student a voice by making our curriculum ever-more inclusive, reflecting on our own internal blindspots, and doing all we can to promote safe, healthy, rich learning environments.

In solidarity,

-Jeff

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Jeff Scheur  
Founder & CEO  
NoRedInk

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118 2nd St. 3rd floor San Francisco, CA 94105