

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December, 2021 14:09
To: jmsmith@coppellisd.com
Subject: Inappropriate actions by Ms Arroyo - Chemistry

Mr Smith,

We have not yet had the opportunity to meet in person. I would have liked for our first introduction to be under happier circumstances. I'd like to bring to your attention an assignment in my 10th graders chemistry class. His teacher is a Ms Arroyo. My sons class was recently assigned an investigation into the history of chemistry. What, this has to do with actual chemistry eludes me, but is not the point of the email.

Ms Arroyo instructed her students in a written assignment for "Diversity in atomic theory development" that they "... are/will be qualified to provide insight on diverse figures in the development, impact, or evolution of the atomic theory...". Even if inserting race/gender into a science course were appropriate, which it of course isn't, Ms Arroyo further instructed the students that they could "basically pick anyone you want except for old, white men.". As the father of a 16 year old boy who, God willing, will grow into an old, white man one day, I am shocked and appalled by this direction.

Given the qualification that the contributions of similarly gendered and pigmented people are not worthy of recognition, how can my child reasonably expect that his contributions and efforts will be recognized fairly in this class? The damage that this kind of "diversity and inclusion" curriculum poses to my child, and children like him, cannot be understated.

It is too late to retract this assignment, which isn't teaching my child anything of value in the science of chemistry. But it is not too late for Ms. Arroyo to issue an apology to her students for driving such an ugly selection process for their work.

I expect to hear news from my student that she has done this by the end of the week. If we need to discuss this further, please feel free to reach out to me by any of the below means.