

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** CRT Talking Points SUPSENSE 23 Jul  
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**Attachments:** [CRT Talking Points v1.docx](#)

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(b)(6)

I decided to send directly to you in addition to your workflow since you ask direct and wanted to make sure you were able to see it.

Here is the Talking Points that were created per the Supt Request. As you can see more was provided just in case he could use more as well as some Q&A to dispel some common myths.

(b)(6) has reviewed and concurred with TPs.

V/R,

(b)(6)

**CRT Talking Points:**

- CRT is an academic theory based on the idea that the history of race and racism in the United States has a lasting impact on society and institutions today.
- It says: let's pay attention to what happened in this country, and HOW what has happened in this country can create different outcomes... so we can become the country of our ideals.
- There ARE activist strains of CRT, but the main body simply asks us to see and speak honestly about the history of race in order to separate fact from fiction.
- This quest to understand and untangle what is going in the world is the heart of scientific inquiry—no different than looking back at past medical practice and thinking we can do better than leeches and blood-letting.
- We HAVE to be able to talk honestly about American history; we HAVE to be able to talk honestly about racism. Doing so is not racist – in fact, it is the only path to ensuring we, as an institution and nation, are NOT perpetuating racism.

**Academic Support:**

- Critical theories provide an analytical lens to help scholars understand aspects of a complex world that are often overlooked in mainstream, traditional, or dominant perspectives – though they are rarely meant to replace or supplant traditional theories.
- The core principle is a desire to metaphorically break open the structures of power in society (i.e. law, government, business, education) and see what norms, traditions, assumptions, and power structures are operating inside.
- CRT is a valuable way to understand how endemic racism, beginning with slavery, has influenced the structures of power in the United States. It is not intended to explain everything, but does offer unique insight on the fields of law, medicine, housing, employment, wealth, and others.
  - Example: many medical schools used CRT to recognize an unconscious bias in the medical profession to downplay health concerns of the BIPOC population, resulting in higher death rates. They are now explicitly countering that bias in training under the principle of the Hippocratic Oath: do no harm.
- Mainstream CRT stops at these observations without providing prescriptions. Activist strains of CRT take the next logical step and suggest how these revealed inequalities can be overcome.

**Academic Critiques:**

- Academic scholars might disagree with the tenets of critical race theory if they argue against “historical revisionism,” or the re-evaluation and re-interpretation of a historical account.
  - Note: Revision/reinterpretation is common in scholarly work, as new evidence comes to light, material is declassified, or current events cast a different light on what occurred. This is literally the heart of the humanities and social science academic fields; the heart of scientific inquiry.
  - Example: declassification of Cold War documents led to a surge in political science research, as old theories were debunked or supported based on the new evidence.
- Scholars who argue against such historical revisionism often do so from the viewpoint of canonical, orthodox interpretations of the events called into question. Since any historical

revisionism might challenge the status quo, such scholars push back against the critiques and may even question the methodology of revisionist scholars.

- First, there were theories that became mainstream canon. Then, critical theories arose to literally critique the canon as missing important parts of the story. Scholars who like and benefited from canon (because they made their name on it or are cited when it's used) are more likely to be averse to critical theories because they are, well, critiques.
- Within the field of academia, different lines of scholarship follow varied methodologies of training and research. Cross-disciplinary inquiry (to include CRT) typically initiates heated debate among scholars because it refuses to “choose a lane.”

#### **Q&A:**

**Q:** Is CRT Marxist?

**A:** No. Marxism is different kind of critical theory that looks at economic status as a root of conflict.

**Academic A:** No. Marxism is one of the original critical theories, which is why it often gets lumped in with CRT, but the two are not related except that both ask us to look at how societal structures can create inequality.

**Q:** Does CRT teach cadets to hate our country?

**A:** No. Acknowledging history should not inspire hate, but rather clear-eyed commitment to the ideals on which this country was founded.

- American exceptionalism is not American perfectionism.
- As MLK would say, “The moral arc of the universe is long and it bends towards justice, but it doesn't bend on its own. We must do some work ourselves.” But we can't bend it if we don't know what is flawed.

**Academic A:** Some strains of CRT can be divisive because they are activist. But much of what is “divisive” is that it's hard for people to hear the words “white supremacy” without feeling defensive, even though that is the academically correct way to talk about most of American history.

**Q:** Does CRT teach some races are inherently bad or racist?

**A:** No; that is racism. To the contrary—CRT asks for genuine equality and specifically does not teach anyone is racist based solely on the color of their skin.

**Academic A:** CRT is normative, meaning it does seek to influence the values and habits of society. However, CRT norms in the direction of equality, not inequality – by understanding where there are hidden or unrecognized rules that disempower one group or another, it seeks to achieve genuine equality.