Reproduction, Resistance, & Accommodation

in the Schooling Process

Assignment 3

HHGMS-AGEP

Culturally Sensitive Pedagogy and Assessment

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Critical pedagogy theory has three areas, that include: theories of reproduction, theories of resistance and theories of transformation. This week’s reading centered on resistance theory based on Henry Giroux’s book entitled *Theory and Resistance in Education Towards a Pedagogy for the Opposition*. We were tasked to read chapter 3 *Reproduction, Resistance & Accommodation in the Schooling Process* which outlines the interconnection of ideology, knowledge, and power.

According to Giroux (2001), ideology is a system or framework for understanding the word. In other words it is a system of ideas. Giroux (2001) defines knowledge as facts, information or skills that may be learned through experience or education and finally, power is the ability to project one’s will into society without considering opposition.

Giroux critiques reproduction theory and states that schools are vehicles of the state that reproduce the class structure and further notes that schools prepare students to matriculate into an unequal social hierarchy. Noted in the readings (2001) reproduction theory does not allow room for human agency and is limited because it does not answer how individuals are able to resist.

Giroux argues that “resistance is a valuable theoretical and ideological construct that provides an important focus for analyzing the relationship between school and the wider society” (Giroux 2001, pg. 107). He further recognizes that resistance provides new theoretical leverage for understanding the complex ways in which the less dominant groups experience educational failure (2001).

Giroux (2001) states that “theories of resistance provide a study of the way in which class culture combine to offer outlines for a cultural politics” (Giroux 2001. Pg. 101) and further notes that resistance theory recognizes counter hegemonic struggle in society in general and within the school. Giroux believes that humans have the agency to resist the power of social structure. With that said, resistance theories can be a powerful theoretical framework to counter Governor DeSantis’ push back on African American AP course.

While resistance theory gives power to individuals as Giroux notes: “resistance theories deepen our understanding of the notion of the relative autonomy, a greatly needed corrective in light of the notion of relative autonomy” (Giroux 2001, pg. 102), he concludes the chapter outlining five weaknesses but circles back to amplify the notion that:

*The concept of resistance highlights the need for classroom teachers to decipher how the modes of cultural production displayed by subordinate groups can be analyzed to reveal both their limits and their possibilities for enabling critical thinkers, analytical discourse, and new modes of intellectual appropriation.* (Giroux 200, pg. 111).