

4-2015

Education

Crystal C. Gray
Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/mabryaward>

 Part of the [African American Studies Commons](#), [African Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [Educational Sociology Commons](#), [Ethnic Studies Commons](#), [Inequality and Stratification Commons](#), [Multicultural Psychology Commons](#), [Poetry Commons](#), [Politics and Social Change Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), [Social and Cultural Anthropology Commons](#), [Social Psychology and Interaction Commons](#), and the [Sociology of Culture Commons](#)

Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Gray, Crystal C.. "Education" (2015). *Eddie Mabry Diversity Award*.
<https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/mabryaward/10>

This Creative Writing is brought to you for free and open access by the Prizewinners at Augustana Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Eddie Mabry Diversity Award by an authorized administrator of Augustana Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@augustana.edu.

Education

Written by Crystal C. Gray

Education, anticipation, procrastination
Anxiety throughout my journey, well before I hit my destination
Declaration... to my designated place of study
But before I choose a major, I can tell you they got nothin' for me!
Thousands of interests, so much to choose.
I made my decision but my satisfaction level seems misconstrued.
You see, they got nothing for us, for me.
Yeah I'm currently taking classes like Anatomy.
I fuck with it. It fucks with me, but you see
The actual area of interest is not why I'm dissatisfied.
The way that the system is built is like suffocating brains and pulling teeth alive
So here I am, I came to strive.
Get through the bullshit and come out alive.

What can an institution teach me about me?
I'm a beautiful Black queen, education isn't just a dream but what does it mean to me?
You see, I'll tell you a few things that I cannot obtain with a college degree.
Street smarts, Common sense and Self-knowledge...
You think everyone would have that shit before college.
What can they tell me about my history?
I swear there's courses on the colonization of Africa, but not the empires and the great queens
The greatest men, the best kings
Nothing on the warriors and our spirituality
Nothing about how we're built "oh-so magically".
Energy flow on extreme!
Did you ever wonder why there's a Universe in University?
You ever wonder why are hair coils to the T?
It spirals like copper, a major conductor of energy.
Not to mention, we have copper in our genes.
The synaptic connections our brain has produces it.
The melanin in our skin and throughout our body carries it.
It's fluid throughout our hair.

You ever wonder why we're so static?
Why we catch energy easily?
Why dance is what we do?
Why we survive and refuse to flee?
Why our hair stands higher than the kingdom of Timbuktu?
Why they feel threatened, like we're beasts on the loose?
Why they do everything to put us down?
Why they STILL fucking beat us to the ground?!
Why they killing our children even before they hit the womb?
Why they so ready to put our brother and sisters beneath the tomb?
Why they work so hard to step on me???
Why we STILL get up and do not flee.
We will not leave, we here to stay.

You can stay your ground, but I'm not here to play.
This will not be another genocide of the divine.
We are the supreme.
Built of star dust, the sun is our lead.
We strive everyday no matter how we live.
Its energy brings us back to the native land.

There wasn't any hate, just energy loss and gain.
We had everything on earth.
Direct connections with the universe.
We knew things currently unknown to man.
We seen things past the naked eye.
We are the divine.
The finest of the crop.
The proudest accomplishment since B.C.
And yet they tried to steal us and I repeat: We did not flee.
Strength is in our genes.

I'm tired of them trying to remake our creations.
I'm tired of being stereotyped as ignorant.
I'm tired of having to look under rocks for this information.
I'm tired.
But as I stand here, please remember:
We are destine to do great things.
Gift from our ancestors; you are the most important gem.
You are a star.
You are the sunlight, you don't have to look far.

I need not to raise my fist to have power.
We have it in your mind.
Take into consideration what our elders have compromised.
We are love.
We are hope.
We are magic
We are dope.

Pass this message along, whether it's to a brother, a sister, a Miss, Missus, or Mister
A pastor, a loved one, a mother or father.
A child, or any other kind.
We are love.
We are destine to BE.