

# Social Justice Literacy and the Common Reader as an Institutional Diversity Initiative

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## Abstract:

In my time as a 2017-2019 National Endowment for the Humanities Visiting Professor at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania, I worked with the First-Year Writing Seminar faculty to initiate a campus-wide diversity common reader. I would love to have the opportunity to share the results of this experience, my diversity insights, and subsequent publication at the upcoming 2020 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Tampa, Florida. (A more detailed outline of my professional accomplishments/publications can be viewed on my author website at [artressbethanywhite.com](http://artressbethanywhite.com)).

I would be happy to share my experiences in the following TWO sessions at the conference:

Session One: Social Justice Literacy and the Common Reader as an Institutional Diversity Initiative

- \* The importance of creating a climate for change and inclusion on campus through faculty buy-in.
- \* Why common readers lose efficacy at the faculty and administrative level.
- \* How resistance to terms like "safe space" and "trigger warnings" point to deeper neglect on college campuses.
- \* Yes, social justice literacy can really make a difference.
- \* My goal in compiling a book like "Survivor's Guilt: Essays on Race and American Identity" to be used by post- secondary educators and administrators.

Session Two: The Road to Publication While Working at Teaching Institutions

- \* The road to publication when teaching a 4/4 or 3/3 teaching load.
- \* Fulfilling your need to create a tangible legacy as part of your academic career.
- \* The many options of publishing with academic, cultural, or creative national journals.
- \* The allure of anthologies and preparing book chapters for tenure promotion.

## Notes:

Artress Bethany White, PhD is a poet, essayist, and literary critic. She received her doctoral degree from the University of Kentucky and is a specialist in twentieth and twenty-first century African American literature. She served as 2017-2019 National Endowment for the Humanities Visiting Professor of American Cultural Studies at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania. Her essay collection, "Survivor's Guilt: Essays on Race and American Identity" is forthcoming from New Rivers Press/Minnesota State University in March 2020. White has received the Mary Hambidge Distinguished Fellowship from the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts for her nonfiction, The Mona Van Duyn Scholarship in Poetry from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and writing residencies at The Writer's Hotel and the Tupelo Press/MASS MoCA studios. She teaches writing workshops for the Rosemont College MFA program.