

# drop knowledge!

## **Call for Submissions**

This call is for submissions to a participatory publishing project about New York City public schools. The editors invite past and present students, teachers, parents, and others to submit contributions about their individual experiences in the school system. We seek social justice perspectives that offer reflection, critique, critical response and creative visioning.

## **Title**

*Narratives of a Broken System: Critical Perspectives on Miseducation in New York City Public Schools*

## **Editors**

Elizabeth Bishop, Ariel Nored, Maruf Hossain, David Roberts

## **Deadline for Submissions**

Midnight, Sunday, December 1, 2013

## **What We Are Looking For**

The co-editors and their wider networks have all been involved in determining the scope, proposed topics and questions listed below. Contributions could be personal narratives, research, creative writing, poetry, short stories, visual art or other work that offers insight on experiences in NYC public schools. Please note: the aim of this book is to focus on narrative experiences from a social justice perspective; the focus is not on individual schools or naming specific school personnel.

## **Proposed Topics to Explore (including, but not limited to):**

- Student perspectives on pedagogy, motivation and real world education
- Teacher turnover and effect on student performance
- Standardized testing, opting-out and portfolio-based assessment
- Imagination and the state of learning
- Overcoming adversity to get to graduation
- Post-secondary preparedness and college readiness
- Out-of-school youth development opportunities
- Drop-out/push-out rates and the mass incarceration of youth of color

## **Proposed Questions to Explore (including, but not limited to):**

- Did the NYC public school system fully prepare you for the "real world?"
- What did we, as students, get out of high school? What styles of teaching helped you become successful?
- How did removing a lot of the teachers we got to know and respect affect our high school experience?
- How well do NYC public schools motivate their students to stay in school/pursue higher education?
- What can be done to change factors in school environments that are pernicious toward a student's educational success?
- What kinds of experiences in public school have affected you in a positive way outside of the classroom?
- How does the policing of students and criminalization correlate to the high levels of drop out rates (or rather "push out rates") of students in NYC public schools? How does that then feed into the high levels of mass incarceration of black and brown youth?
- How do students determine what is important to focus on in an NYC public school setting?
- What strengths did individuals draw from their adversities in their public high school experience?
- What experiences inspire individuals to challenge the status quo and become self motivated in NYC public school settings?
- What should future teachers and students know about surviving and thriving in NYC public schools?

## **Guidelines for Contributors**

- Submit up to:
  - 20 pages of prose writing
  - 5 poems
  - 5 visual arts pieces (pdf or jpg)
- Times New Roman 12 pt font
- Double Spaced
- Include author/artist name(s) and email address(es) on each submission
- Send submissions to [book@dropknowledgeproject.org](mailto:book@dropknowledgeproject.org)
- Subject Line should read "Narratives of a Broken System"