

## **Can Our Children Really Learn This Way? Discovering the Impact of the Afrocentric Curriculum**

**Ashley Ojiemwen, Speech and Hearing Sciences**

Research Mentor: Ruby Mendenhall

### **Abstract**

The current state of education for African American children continues to fall behind the academic achievements of White American children. I offer an Afrocentric curriculum to improve the current state of education for African American children. The need for improvements to access for African American children's educational success is longstanding in research. While many researchers identify failure in African American academic achievements, Afrocentric scholars offer the development of the Afrocentric curriculum has a solution to increase self-esteem, academic success, and systematic/institutionally structure awareness. This research discusses the development of the Afrocentric curriculum. Scholars debate the use of the Afrocentric curriculum in a kindergarten through 12th grade public education, and I will show the current case studies that argue for and against its use. My research finds strengths and challenges with the use of the Afrocentric curriculum. The Afrocentric curriculum can be empowering if the environment, the school, administrators, teachers, and students, are fully committed to the social, educational, and personal changes and principles that are essential to the Afrocentric curriculum.