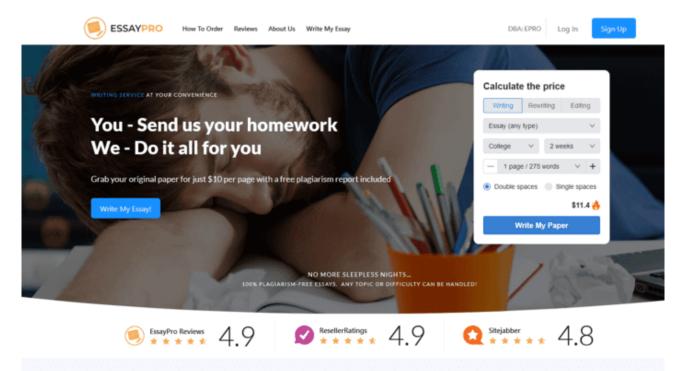
## **Public Education: Funding based Upon Race**



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Public Education: Funding based Upon Race

Education...beyond all other devices of human origin, is a great equalizer of the conditions of men—the balance wheel of the social machinery. I do not here mean that it so elevates the moral nature as to make men disdain and abhor the oppression of their fellow men...But I mean that it gives each man the independence and the means by which he can resist the selfishness of other men. It does better than to disarm the poor of their hostility toward the rich: it prevents being poor. –Horace Mann, 1848

Public <u>education</u> in the United States is exalted as the "great equalizer." This utopian concept would be true if the education provided to all citizens was equal. Unfortunately, the dueling principles upon which the American nation was founded—freedom to accumulate wealth and equality for all—inhibit the establishment and maintenance of equal education. <u>Funding</u> inequities within the United States public education system embody the tension between one's right to accumulate capital and one's duty to guarantee equality for all. As the current system stands, the right to accumulate and utilize financial resources prevails. Thus, an educational system that perpetuates the economic inequality of America's racial groups endures.

In the 1954 United States Supreme Court case, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, school segregation was found to be unconstitutional. On behalf of the Court, Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." The reasoning behind the unanimous decision diverged from the line of argumentation that had been used by civil rig...

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