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Commentary on "Why Exclusion Leads to Oppression"

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Commentary

Kareha Agesa's paper was chosen to be included in this year's edition of *Prologue* for a number of reasons that underscore her developing potential as a writer and a scholar. Right off the bat, in her very first paragraph, Kareha informs the reader of the key issues that her paper investigates - and she doesn't shy away from highlighting the deficiencies in the perspectives of those storied individuals who laid the foundations of the U.S. public education system. Presenting an informed criticism of Thomas Jefferson and Catherine Beecher is no easy task, especially for someone just beginning to come to terms with the significantly higher expectations that writing in the undergraduate level commands, but Kareha explicates her views with aplomb. She acknowledges the advances made by Jefferson and Beecher, but she also sheds light on how their views were biased along racial and gendered lines. What I loved the most about Kareha's paper was the manner in which she tied her arguments together towards the end of the paper and told the reader what strides have been made to overcome the limitations that accompanied Jefferson's and Beecher's perspectives. Writing an effective conclusion is a matter that most first-year students have difficulties with, but Kareha's paper is a glowing example of rational thinking effectively communicated.

--Param Ajmera, Writing Center Consultant