



The Philo-Education of Perot Kang

Track 1: Ess-Factor

*"Tell me, who I have to be
To get some reciprocity*

*No matter how I think we grow
You always seem to let me know
It ain't workin', It ain't workin'*

*Cause no one's hurt me more than you
And no one ever will" (Lauryn Hill, Ex-Factor).*

The opening track of my EP is titled Ess-Factor. This song is a play on the track, Ex-Factor, from Lauryn Hill's debut album, *The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. In the song Ex-Factor, Hill sings about this strong and passionate love she has for someone. However, this person is not giving her the same type of love back. Thus, there are a lot of flaws in this relationship, however she is still resilient and does not give up on the relationship.

The opening track of my EP is titled Ess-Factor because it represents one of the following philosophies of education that I believe in, Essentialism. The concept of Essentialism deals with students learning and mastering the basic skills needed to do well in their society. Some of the key phrases of essentialism are "back to basics," "society decides what essentials are," and "compute skills needed for people to function." I felt like this philosophy connected to Ex-Factor because of the emphasis this philosophy has on society and our relationship with it. I related this with school systems in the urban/inner-city population. When Lauryn sings, *"Tell me, who I have to be to get some reciprocity,"* I felt that this represents students who are trying to figure themselves out and to do well, in order to strive with the obstacles they have. These students want to succeed and fit in to today's society. Thus, they are seeking the skills and answers from schools to become the person that society wants them to be. Later on when Hill says how regardless on how she thinks that there is growth, something always happen that lets her know that there's still an issue. With these lyrics, I was able to relate it to essentialism because as a teacher, I want my students to achieve and succeed, however, I must also remember that there are ongoing issues in society that my students will have to, unfortunately, deal with due to the fact that they come from different cultures, ethnicity, and communities. Overall, the message of Ex-Factor, about being strong and tough in the face of trouble, reflects my sentiments on essentialism. Essentialism stresses on the importance of learning the skills required by society. And although there can be some pain with seeing how society treats some of those that are in it, we must understand that once we learn how important it is to master the skills to work through society, then we can make change to undo the problems that are apart of it.

Track 2: Doo Whop (Social Reconstructivism Is That Thing)

*Quick to shoot the semen, stop acting like boys and be men
How you gonna win when you ain't right within?*

*Girlfriend, let me break it down for you again
You know I only say it 'cause I'm truly genuine
Don't be a hard rock when you really are a gem*

The second song off the album is titled Doo Whop (Social Reconstructivism is That Thing). The track is inspired by Hill's Grammy-winning single, Doo Whop (That Thing). In this song, Hill issues a warning to the black community to encourage them to become better. She cuts the track in two parts. She begins by addressing issues and offering advice to women, and then she does the same for men, in the second half of the song. The song has been viewed as an important artistic piece that has addressed the topic of equality for all.

This song inspired Doo Whop (Social Reconstructivism Is That Thing) because it perfectly explains the concept of social reconstructivism and how it represents my philosophy of education. Social Reconstructivism can be explained by these phrases: "mutual understanding," "schools are agents of social reformation," "students understand social problems," and "focus on student experience." As you see, by the original song by Hill, she advocates for a mutual understanding when she addresses both sexes in her lyrics. I think as a teacher, I want to be able to apply social reconstructivism to my classroom. I think it is so important for my students to become aware and conscious, even at a young age. Thus, once when we began to allow them to open their minds to become accepting and to want change, then this mentality will hopefully grow, as they get older. I also like the idea of focusing on student experience. We, as educators, must become knowledgeable about who we are teaching and we must treat every child in our classroom as individuals.

Track 3: Can't Take My Progressivism Off of You (Interlude)

You're just too good to be true

Oh pretty baby, don't let me down, I pray

Oh pretty baby, now that I found you, stay

This is my favorite track from the EP. I think it just really shines and overall pieces all the songs together. The song is taken from Hill's cover of Can't Take My Eyes Off of You by Frankie Valli. However, her soulful voice and tone brings in a feeling so powerful that truly took the lyrics to a new place. Can't Take My Eyes Off is a song about being deep in love with someone and expressing it to them.

The reason why I chose to title this track Can't Take My Progressivism Off of You is because I wanted to write a song that can really showcase my love for one of my favorite philosophy of education, progressivism. Progressivism can be described as putting the focus on students rather than the content. The teaching style of an educator who represents progressivism is that the students are heavily based on self-expression. We, as educators, must act as a guide and not a taskmaster. There's a lot of freedom for students to develop on their own terms. In summary, I believe that this is the main purpose of education. Besides teaching the curriculum, we are here to guide the students in the right direction by giving them an opportunity to learn on their own terms. Treat each student as individuals with their own capability of exploring their own mind and expressing themselves. Therefore, as teachers, the best thing we can do for our students is to offer them a safe environment where they feel comfortable to expand their knowledge and truly find their identities.

Track 4: To Existentialism (Interlude)

*I knew his life deserved a chance
But everybody told me to be smart
"Look at your career," they said
"Lauryn baby use your head."
But instead I chose to use my heart*

*Now the joy of my world
Is in Zion! (Zion, Zion!)*

To Existentialism is the fourth song on the EP. And with this song I am able to truly express who I am and share with the world what I, personally, believe in. It's based on Hill's track titled To Zion, which she devoted to her son, Zion. In the song, she reveals that a lot of people told her not to have a child, and to instead put her career first. However, she did what she felt was right and, as she stated, used her heart.

To Existentialism represent the philosophy of education, existentialism. This philosophy focuses on "the existence of the individual" and that we, as individuals, are responsible for defining ourselves. In this concept, our students are the ones that need to find their own way of thinking and develop their own conclusions. Therefore, in the song To Zion, Lauryn was able to use her own personal thinking and follow her heart when she decided to have a child, even with the opposition of those around her. I think that existentialism is so important in the classroom because it allows our students to become their own person. Thus, I feel that once we know whom we are, then we can put ourselves into different groups and we are able to transition in different branches of society, easily, because we are self-aware and comfortable with ourselves. Existentialism speaks about truth. It defines truth as a concept that only one can define them in the inside. As a teacher, in my classroom, I want to take in this philosophy of education because I don't want my students to see me as the sole person with all the answers to every question. I hope to give my students to the knowledge of realizing that they hold just as much power as me. They are the ones who can shape themselves in becoming the individual they would like to become; whether it be about values, education, and identity etc.

Track 5: The Phil-education of Perot Kang

*Now tell me your philosophy
On exactly what an artist should be
Should they be someone with prosperity
And no concept of reality?*

The closing track of the EP is also the title track, The Philo-education of Perot Kang. It is taken from Lauryn Hill's song The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill. It defines the whole message that I wanted to send to not only my fans, but also to the world about what I felt was a true representation of my own philosophy of education. In Hill's song, she explains that it "has a lot to do with finding out about your own aspirations and your own dreams, and not those dreams and those aspirations that some might have for you. It's a song about movement and growth and inspiration." I felt that this message fits perfectly with the philosophies of education that I believe in which includes, essentialism, social reconstructivism, existentialism, and progressivism. Just like existentialism and progressivism focuses on the students and individuals, these songs mentions how she had to personally search and find her own goals and interests, and not go by the ones that others imposed on her. The song also mentions movement that reflects the same sentiments of social constructivism. The song echoes similar themes that flow within this body of work, which include change, equality, and culture/social awareness. The term "growth" also plays a heavy role in this song as well. This can be connected to the concept of essentialism. As students enter the school system, one of the main goal as an educator is to teach students the necessary skills and information so that, in turn, they can keep on expanding on the skills and apply them to life-long tasks in their societal world.

Thank you note:

I just wanted to thank my family, teachers, and friends/peers that have inspired me to create this body of work, the Philo-Education of Perot Kang. Each and every one of you have impacted the way I, not only think of education, but also of society, life, and myself in general. Thank you to my family for providing me with a safe outlet and environment so that I am able to express myself freely without judgment. You guys have shown me how important it is to have a voice as an individual at such a young age, which is why I hope to carry on this philosophy into my classroom. Thank you to the countless teachers who have given me the functional skills and that would later still become useful during and after my journey in school. Thank you to my peers who inspired me to step out my bubble and become aware of the issues around not only my community, but in society as a whole. This is my philosophy of education. It's a combination of various ideas from different philosophies and I am so excited to share this with my future students.

Track list:

- **Track 1: Ess-Factor**
- **Track 2: Doo Whop (Social Reconstructivism Is That Thing)**
- **Track 3: Can't Take My Progressivism Off of You (Interlude)**
 - **Track 4: To Existentialism (Interlude)**
 - **Track 5: The Phil-education of Perot Kang**